WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

BULLETIN

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WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. V. AUGUST, 1906 No. 1

The Work for Clean Streets*

By CAROLINE BARTLETT CRANE

Now and again we hear of various educational movements for clean streets by the co-operation of district organizations backed by clergymen, school teachers and a general appeal to the public for law and order—all of which bring forth more or less spasmodic results, and can scarcely be classified as "love's labor lost." We think it may be of interest to some of our readers to present the practical application of the theory of effectively cleaning the streets of a city and the art of keeping them so, as emphasized in the report of Mrs. Caroline Bartlett Crane, Chairman of the Clean Streets Committee of the Women's Civic Improvement League of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Mrs. Crane clearly demonstrates what woman *can* do, and what officials *could* do to create healthful cleanliness in the city streets, if only by the simple enforcement of present ordinances and regulations. We trust the recital of her experiment may be of interest even to those who have already made its acquaintance, as it invites and will amply reward further study.—EDITOR.

We gladly hear much to-day of the movement for civic art; but it is well to remember that civic art without civic cleanliness is as diamond rings on dirty hands. The adornments of a dirty city do but emphasize its dirtiness, while cleanliness has not only a virtue but a beauty of its own.

It is not easy, however, for a city to be clean. The mere aggregation of human beings creates problems unknown to the isolated family on the farm. Household refuse, garbage, ashes, discarded substances of all kinds; the wastes of the human body; the dust and dirt caused by the movement of the people and the presence of horses in our streets; the smoke and soot of our locomotives and heating plants and manufactures; all these constantly

*Reprinted from "The Woman's Forum" of September, 1905.

threaten to become not only a nuisance but a menace to public health and a destroyer of civic beauty.

In how many cities traversed by a beautiful river do we see the river banks, the natural park of the people, converted into dumping grounds for rotting garbage, discarded mattresses, dead cats and a thousand and one other reminders that we have not yet mastered the fine art of living decently together. And a member of our State Board of Health tells a true story of a former resident in a Pennsylvania town in the typhoid fever district who offered to cleanse the city of just such an abomination as this, and to build a reservoir which would ensure an ample supply of clean water. But a committee waited on him and said that the city would rather he would build a soldiers' monument, if it was all the same to him!

Civic cleanliness is the foundation of civic health. New Orleans should have scrubbed her streets before the yellow fever epidemic. Havana, now one of the cleanest cities in the world, should build in her public park a splendid monument to Colonel George E. Waring, of the United States army, who valiantly entered the list against the filth and disease of that city and fell a victim to the fever; a martyrdom as inspiring to workers for the civic good as any suffered on a bloody battlefield.

Civic cleanliness is equally the foundation of civic art and of civic pride and self-respect. If you have thoughtlessly taken your guests from another city a short cut through a dirty alley to show them the carved white-stone Carnegie library, you may feel somewhat as if you had conducted them through a dirty kitchen to show them your sévres and faience. It is your city, and you are suddenly made ashamed enough to wish, perhaps, that Mr. Carnegie had used his money to endow a school of municipal housekeeping.

Municipal housekeeping! That is a word I want, to make women feel their share of responsibility for the cleanliness of their city. We say, when on a journey, "Grand Rapids," or "Kalamazoo," or "Coldwater" is my home. And is not one's city in truth the extension of one's home? And even if one does not stir beyond the doors of the house, is not one made acutely conscious of the character of this larger surrounding home? If it is unclean, do not street dirt and dust and smoke-polluted air invade the house of the best housekeeper and make her heaviest burdens? Do not the germs of disease borne in with the dust, the foul air from inefficient sewers, and polluted water and filth-contaminated food strike down the members of her family with sickness which all her care is powerless to prevent?

The time is past when women can ignore the plain fact that, in order to fill their sphere inside the home, they must look carefully to circumstances surrounding and conditioning the home. The growing conviction in the minds of women that this is true accounts for the hundreds of women's civic improvement leagues and organizations of like purpose which are springing into existence all over the country. And the growing hospitality of the best

men toward women's efforts in these directions is the result of the practical effectiveness of the women's work. Intelligent men know that women to-day have the leisure, the practical experience and the organizing ability necessary for such tasks, and they gladly welcome them as a new power making for the general good.

I am to introduce this new department of Civic Work in The Woman's Forum by telling of one branch of the activities of the Woman's Civic Improvement League of Kalamazoo, Michigan, namely, the work toward securing clean streets. I do not wish to over-praise our work, for had it not met with the hospitable consideration of the city officials, it would have come to naught. This article is written in the hope that other women's organizations will thereby be encouraged to like undertakings, and will meet with like cordial acceptance of their help and adoption of their suggestions by the city authorities.

On April 25, 1904, the Women's Civic Improvement League of Kalamazoo petitioned the mayor and city council for permission to take charge, through its department of health, of the cleaning of Main Street from Church Street to the Lake Shore tracks—a distance of six and one-half blocks—for the period of three months, beginning May 2. The petition asked for a money allowance equal to the sum usually expended in this work, and for the tools and appliances customarily furnished. The petition was unanimously granted. The sum specified by the council was five dollars a day.

The motive of the Women's Civic Improvement League in undertaking this work was, first, to find out by investigation and experiment the best, most sanitary and most economical method of street cleaning for a city of this size; and, second, to put into operation in a limited area for a time sufficient to demonstrate its worth and recommend its continuance by the city authorities. We believed that Kalamazoo was by no means the dirtiest city to be found; but we also believed it to be below the standard of cleanliness which ought to characterize a city which is looking toward 50,000 and talking enthusiastically for "Greater Kalamazoo."

Preliminary to undertaking this work, a careful study was made of methods employed in other cities having a reputation for cleanliness. It was found that the system inaugurated with such wonderful success by Colonel George E. Waring in New York City in 1895 was in vogue in nearly all cities inquired about.

A careful study of this system as set forth by Colonel Waring himself in his book, "Street Cleaning, the Effect Upon Public Health, Public Morals and Municipal Prosperity," led to a decision to try this method in Kalamazoo. The salient features of this system are:

1. Sweeping the pavements by hand with push-brooms and collecting the dirt into piles.

2. Immediately taking up each pile of dirt and depositing it, with the help of a small hand-broom and shovel, into a bag suspended upon a two-wheeled bag-carrier which the sweeper pushes about with him.

3. Tying the bags when filled and depositing them in convenient places in alleys or along the street, to be removed by wagon.

4. The "orderly" or "patrol" system, by which each man is given a definite portion of the street to keep clean and is held responsible for this portion.

5. A white uniform (of at least white coat and hat, or helmet) and a waterproof outfit for rainy days.

6. Flushing the streets at stated intervals—once a week in the absence of drenching rains.

When the league undertook the work it found in vogue the following system, which will be recognized as fairly typical of towns that pay no special attention to the business of keeping the streets clean: The brick pavement was scraped daily or oftener with a steel scraper about five feet wide, with which the debris was brought to the gutter. This was swept into piles with a basswood broom, and the surface of the streets was swept somewhat with the broom, but to no very great extent, and as a consequence the street was very far from clean. The piles of dirt were left at the sides of the street usually for hours, often until the next day; to be blown back upon the pavement, up upon the sidewalks, and into the air, in the form of coarse and offensive dust. The wheels of passing vehicles also distributed it into the street again. When the wagon came, what was left in piles was lifted by shovel into the air and the faces of the passers-by. Merchants, drivers and pedestrians loudly complained of the dust and grosser dirt which was a constant offense to the eyes and an injury to the throat and lungs of all concerned, as well as to the delicate fabrics on sale in the stores.

On May second the street cleaning committee began its work according to the system of Colonel Waring as above described.

But the cleaning of the pavement, which was all that had ever been undertaken by the city, was by no means the only concern of the league. We sought and promptly obtained an ordinance against spitting on sidewalks (which was well enforced as long as we had charge of the work, or which, rather, seemed to be voluntarily obeyed). We asked merchants to clean their walks and not to sweep or throw anything from the stores into the streets. We requested the cleaning of the filthy sidewalk gratings, and, where possible, the substitution of sidewalk lights. We took photographs of all the filthy alleys in the down-town district and showed them to tenants and property owners, with the result that they were cleaned up as if by magic. We placed upon the principal street corners and midway in the blocks galvanized iron aluminum-painted cans bearing the legend, "For Waste Paper, Fruit Skins,

etc.," and we had boys of our Junior Civic Improvement League hand out on the street a little "dodger" as follows:

PLEASE

The Women's Civic Improvement League has undertaken to keep Main Street clean. We ask YOU to help us. Please do not throw anything —paper, fruit skins, peanut shells, or any other litter—in the street; put it in the waste paper can at the corner. And, gentlemen, please do not spit on the sidewalk, or in the gratings, or anywhere but in the gutter.

Now, please don't throw *this* in the street!

We began all along the line on the first day. The men in their white suits, with their strange new apparatus and methods found it at first hard to change from the old way. They did not like to use the bags, they did not remember the constantly reiterated injunction to "sweep *with* the bricks, not across them."

Those who could not or would not learn, those who loafed, those who thought they knew all about street cleaning, were dismissed. Those who learned the new way and were industrious and faithful, had their wages raised, without their asking, from $1.50 to $1.75 a day, which is what other city laborers, not sweepers, receive. And these men, stimulated by appreciation and by the knowledge that hundreds of women's eyes were upon them, felt a pride in their work and did more and better work than ever before, and moreover, became warm converts to Colonel Waring's methods for Kalamazoo. And I think I may safely say that their work under this method, and the visible results, converted the public.

The best method of using water in the street cleaning was something which the committee particularly wished to ascertain. Previous to undertaking the work, arrangements had been made with the chief of the fire department to flush the territory once a week. But the work was found to require so very much more time and labor than anyone anticipated that the committee could not ask the fulfillment of this agreement. By the courtesy of the fire department, however, the whole street was flushed once, and two blocks of it were flushed twice, the experiments being conducted by the chairman of the committee between three and six in the morning, when the street was free of street car and other traffic.

These experiments, together with information gleaned from other cities, led us to recommend that the flushing be done by members of the street-cleaning force or by sewer men, who should carry a hydrant key, with instructions to turn off the water immediately in case of an alarm of fire. Flushing should be done from the center of the street toward the gutters, and a fan-shaped nozzle (or no nozzle) should be used, which prevents the water striking the pavement with injurious force, and also guards against splashing sidewalks and windows. The mud washed to the gutter should be hoed in piles and

allowed to partially dry, after which it is removed by wagon. Streets should be flushed at night after the day's sweeping, especially if there be any doubt as to the capacity of the storm sewers; when (being flushed toward the gutters) little but soluble or floating particles will reach the sewers. The water, also, can then best be spared, for the wells have time to fill up again before the day's demands on them begin.

One partial failure the committee has to report, after the most strenuous efforts to make a success. It was ascertained, in the course of investigation, that in a good many cities in Europe the street refuse was sold to farmers for fertilizers; that which was not immediately sold was hauled to a municipal yard in the outskirts and sold in quantity later. We believed that it would be possible to dispose of our street refuse so as to at least eliminate the cost of cartage; perhaps to do better. A bargain for one week was actually made, but a broken arm prevented the man from carrying out his contract beyond two days. Others tried it, but came so irregularly and returned the bags so at their own convenience that it would not answer our purpose. Loath to give up the plan, many afternoons were spent in driving about and interviewing truck gardeners and celery growers, but all to no purpose. The best we could do was to pay fifty cents a day to have the bags hauled away and emptied, whereas the hauling heretofore had cost the city four times this amount. Since the conclusion of our experiment the chairman learned, on a visit to Benton Harbor, Michigan, that the street commissioner, Mr. Daniel Green, actually sells the street sweepings to farmers, who pay twenty-five cents a load for one and one-half square yards. Mr. Green informs me that the farmers come and get this fertilizer and haul it away at that price. He adds: "There is no trouble whatever to get rid of it, for there are a great many farmers who are very anxious to buy. The sweepings are used for all kinds of crops, fruit, vegetables, grain, etc."

To sell the sweepings neatly tied, put up in bags, should surely be a much easier matter, and this feature of economy is earnestly recommended as one worth striving for.

As a result of our experiment in street cleaning we were enabled to recommend the Colonel Waring system to the city officials on the following grounds of efficiency, sanitation and economy:

A. This method is efficient in that dirt once collected in a pile is immediately and permanently removed from the street instead of being allowed to remain for hours and often till the next day, to be redistributed by passing wheels and blown about by the wind. No method is efficient which permits the escape of dirt after it is once collected.

B. The "orderly" or "patrol" system is efficient because it defines the responsibility of each man, to himself, to his overseer (greatly lessening the task of supervision, since the work speaks for the man even during his absence), and to the people along his beat. He is praised or blamed, re-

tained or discharged, "according to his works." On this account he naturally becomes a patrolman who may be required to report all things which contribute to dirt and disorder and make his work difficult or ineffectual; and moreover it becomes to his personal interest to report such things. A leaky hydrant, a wet gutter, a choked sewer outlet are his individual concern. He protests against the carelessness of teamsters who drip sand, stones, ashes and manure for him to clean up. He reports merchants and householders who throw rubbish into his street. And in doing all these things he is performing a valuable public service, such as naturally is scarce thought of by the same man when he is here to-day and there to-morrow, with no special piece of work speaking for or against him, and subject to the common human temptation to be no more laborious than seems necessary in order to hold his job.

C. Efficiency is promoted by uniforming the men; because it dignifies an important but not sufficiently appreciated branch of public service in the eyes of the worker and in the eyes of the public; because it tends to promote discipline; because it lessens the liability of the sweeper being run over by passing vehicles; because it makes the work of inspection vastly easier, so that it can be told blocks away whether a man is working or idling; because it inevitably enlists the public in the work of inspection, which is an added stimulus to the worker. The waterproof suit is essential that the most may be made of rainy days, which are the elect days for street cleaning.

D. As to flushing, it is to be borne in mind that flushing from the hydrant and scrubbing in the rain are the only methods of getting pavements (especially brick pavements with the dirt-filled grooves between the units) really clean. Otherwise, the dirt remains a paste between the bricks unless it dries and is blown out as dust. There is much to recommend the new street flushing machines discharging water under compressed air pressure, which are now in successful operation in several American cities. The streets are washed clean twice a week or oftener, all the dirt being carried into the sewers. Between flushings the Waring system of sweeping keeps the streets clean. We believe this to be an ideal combination where practicable. However, the lack of an air-compressing plant in Kalamazoo, as well as some doubt about the capacity of our storm sewers and drainage, rendered it, in our opinion, impracticable for our city to undertake the installation of this machine-flushing method at present. But very much in the same line may be accomplished by the system of hand-flushing above described, and at so little cost that it should not be neglected. The weekly removal of all the dirt on and between the pavement surfaces makes the work of the hand-sweeper vastly easier and more efficient, and our pavements could thus be kept practically clean.

E. The Colonel Waring system is sanitary because it removes the maximum percentage of dirt and dust from the streets. Paved streets, unless kept clean, greatly increase the dust nuisance, because dirt slides about and

is caught up more easily from the smooth surface. Dust pure and simple is a dangerous irritant to throat, lungs and eyes. Dust laden with disease germs, as street dust is amply proven to be, is a recognized source of throat and lung disorders. In this day when such disorders are known to be so largely preventable and the product of public and private carelessness, what city can afford to neglect its dust problem? The immediate removal of all the dirt when collected, together with such use of water as has been described, would do a great sanitary service for any city.

So much for efficiency and sanitation. Now as to economy—a most important question in the minds of officials charged with the expenditure of the public money.

We think this question is settled by the detailed figures which we submitted to the city council some months after the conclusion of our experiment, in which interval a return was made to the old method, plus the use of rotary machine sweepers. These figures showed that it cost the city $8.39 a day to do what we did for five dollars a day, in spite of the fact that we were at the great disadvantage of doing a retail business, as it were. When we wanted a team, for instance, we had to hire it at a high price by the hour; also, we paid higher wages. Making allowance for the difference of wages, the city's figures as compared with ours were $8.99 to $5.00, or $1.01 less than double the cost.

It may be useful here to indicate what we found to be some of the needless sources of expenditure in the old method: There is a waste of time, which is a waste of money, in gathering and handling the same dirt again and again, always more or less ineffectually. The Waring system does this once for all, with the least possible expenditure of time and effort, and hence of money. Again, there is a very considerable waste of time (and hence of money) in having a two-horse wagon with two men stop at each pile of dirt to shovel it into the wagon. Anyone who cares to watch this process and contrast it with that of the one-horse cart with one man, such as can be seen on the streets of Grand Rapids, for instance, cannot fail to be impressed with the labor and money saving value of the latter device. Again, not to utilize the advantages of the patrol and uniforms and cheap water is a waste of time and money.

Another very important element of expense in the way of cleaning streets is the large dependence placed on the machine sweepers, two of which were formerly in constant use day and night. We would not be understood as wholly condemning the use of the bamboo horse-power sweeper, which doubtless has its place when long stretches of streets are to be cleaned up quickly, as for a procession, or where the streets are not supposed to be swept more than once or twice a week. But we believe that the findings of Colonel Waring himself are still valid on this point. He found that the machine sweeper does not sweep thoroughly, and that its use is not practical by day on crowded streets; therefore the streets, if swept by machine at

night, must be swept by hand by day, else we have clean streets in the night and dirty ones in the daytime. And the double sweeping costs more and is less satisfactory than all hand work by day. As Mr. Robert M. Cochrane, first assistant of the street cleaning department of Chicago, expresses it, "One hand sweep outlasts two machine sweeps; and I hope never to put the machines back on our streets."

It is our observation that it is very difficult to get just the right amount of water in sprinkling in preparation for the machine sweeper. If the streets are too much sprinkled the dirt is reduced to a gum, much of which the sweeper smears over and between the bricks; while if this sprinkling is not free enough, the dirt escapes in dust. We experimented a little with the machine sweeper, which for sweeping our six and one-half blocks of Main Street cost $1.60; and besides that, the winrows of dirt had to be swept by hand into piles and then removed the same as hand sweepings. This money, to say nothing of the money invested in the machines, will suffice to keep an extra man, with a broom and a cart, all day on this portion of the street.

Neither is this fact of fundamental civic economy to be overlooked: That the money expended for hand sweeping goes to our own citizens who need it and who spend it in the city; while the money expended for purchase of machine sweepers goes out of the city and throws our own citizens out of work. Promote the efficiency of these men; remove the temptation to idling which the old system encourages; hold them responsible for a specified task; but give them the work to do. Surely this is a consideration not to be overlooked by city officials whose aim should be to foster home industry and protect home labor by all means consistent with the best public service.

But all considerations thus far urged in the line of economy are small indeed beside two features of the old system to which we called official attention, and which are bound to shorten the life of the pavements in any city where they are practised. One is the sprinkling of asphalt pavements. The other is the sweeping of pavements of any kind by the rotary steel-wire brush machine sweeper.

Water is the natural enemy of asphalt, because the asphaltic cement contains soluble salts which dissolve out, leaching the pavement and causing it to "rot." Not so much harm is done by occasional rains, which run off and allow the pavement to dry out; and sheet asphalt may occasionally be flushed on the same principle. But keeping the pavement constantly wet by sprinkling is most disastrous. We may sometimes see asphalt rotted near the curb, where there is no traffic, from constant dampness under trees. This is one of the reasons, aside from lessening the expense, for parking asphalt streets; to get the pavement out in the sun. Many cities are discontinuing the sprinkling of asphalt pavements, and there is really no excuse for sprinkling, when we consider the great ease with which the smooth surface may be kept clean by proper hand sweeping and the instant removal of dirt. This is one of the reasons why sheet asphalt is so great a favorite.

To sprinkle the smooth, beautiful surface in order to stick the dirt down, instead of removing it entirely, is to prefer dirt and to sacrifice the life of our pavement to this strange preference. Cut off the cost of the needless and harmful sprinkling; detail a man with a broom, shovel and cart to sweep the pavement; scrub when it rains; flush once a week when it does not rain, and thus let sheet asphalt pavements enjoy a reasonable immunity from destruction. The sprinkling of block asphalt is even worse, if it be laid on a sand foundation with no filling between the blocks, as is the case here. There can be no proper drainage through sand, and the water, gaining entrance between the units, rots the under surface as well as the top. I may add that the manufacturers of asphalt pavement are unanimous against sprinkling it, and for the Colonel Waring system of cleaning.

So much for the sprinkling of asphalt pavements. We come now to an even more serious matter: The injury wrought upon pavements by the rotary steel-wire brush machine sweeper.

This sweeper was purchased something over a year ago in Kalamazoo because it was thought that a second machine sweeper was needed. Why a wire sweeper was purchased, instead of a second bamboo sweeper, we do not know, unless it was because it would not wear out. But anyone standing by and listening to the friction of this rotary broom on its heavy roller is left in no doubt that something wears out. What is it? It is our pavements, which have cost us from $1.40 to $2.25 per square yard, for the sake of some of which our city has been bonded, and which are not gifted with immortality at best. This is not our judgment alone. Believing this to be the case, we wrote to the contractors who have put down pavements in this city and to the street commissioners of several cities having a reputation for cleanliness, among them Detroit and Grand Rapids; and to a few other persons who may be regarded as experts. From all of these sources we received overwhelming testimony as to the destructive action of the steel-wire sweeper upon the surface and the filling of pavements. Several persons did not hesitate to say that in their opinion the wear of the steel-wire broom was more destructive to pavements than the wear of the natural traffic; that it wore out the surface of asphalt and nearly all kinds of pavement (and our sheet asphalt has a wearing surface of only an inch and a half); that it tore out the filling between the bricks and gave an entry for water and wear; that the rotary steel-wire sweeper was on all accounts to be condemned and discarded.

The Colonel Waring system of street cleaning is about to be inaugurated upon three miles or more of the streets of Kalamazoo, as a result of our experiment conducted here and in answer to our petition presented to the officials of the city. When we shall see the "white wings" on our streets again, we will feel repaid for all our efforts; and we will feel even better repaid if our experience shall stimulate some other organization of women to undertake a like work, if needed, in their own city.

Committee on Ice-Water Fountains

About ten days ago a visit was made to some of the ice-water fountains by a member of the Committee. It was a hot day, and the scene at Rivington Street in front of the College Settlement, where one of the new fountains has just been placed, was most interesting. The street was lined with push-carts displaying all kinds of gay wares, attracting throngs of people, old and young. It was very satisfactory to see how much the fountain was appreciated; it was in almost constant use. A "Worker" in the Settlement said that different sets of children had charge of the sidewalk in front of the house during the summer, and the fountain will probably be under their charge. It was hoped that the ice water might prove a substitute for the pink soda water, which abounds in this locality.

Another fountain at the Newsboys' Lodging House in New Chambers Street is not only useful to the boys there, but will be of great benefit to the teamsters of that district.

The fountain at the Italian Benevolent Society was visited last week. Eight boys were there at the time, and some one coming with a pail to carry the water away. This fountain was given last year as a memorial and was placed at the request of the donor on a building where it would be used by young children.

A morning spent in visiting these fountains would give an interesting and graphic idea of the summer life of our city and convince any observer of the importance of the fountains.

The Woman's Municipal League has been asked to place a fountain *at once* in one of the most congested districts of the city. The treasury of the Ice Water Fountain Committee needs one hundred dollars before this timely demand can be met. Contributions should be sent to Katherine T. Rhodes, The Woman's Municipal League, 19 East 26th Street. Checks made payable to Harriet M. Dillingham.

LOUISA VERPLANCK RICHARDS.

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

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Deodorizing the Waste of New York City—In Collection and Cartage.

James C. Bayles, M.E., Ph.D.

September, 1906

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WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. V. SEPTEMBER, 1906 No. 2

The regular Monthly Meeting of the League for September will be omitted.

KATHERINE T. RHODES,
Assistant Secretary.

By special permission we present the following report, prepared by James C. Bayles, M.E., Ph.D., for the Aldermanic Committee investigating the Department of Street Cleaning.

Deodorizing the Waste of New York City—In Collection and Cartage

JAMES E. BAYLES, M.E., Ph.D.

As instructed, I have prepared, and hand you herewith, this report embodying my observations and experiences relative to the use of so-called disinfectants in the work of the New York Department of Street Cleaning.

My general conclusion, based upon long acquaintance with the practical work of final disposition of municipal waste in this and other cities, is that the employment of chemical aids in nuisance suppression, as they are now used, is futile; that while employed in good faith and with honest purpose, they represent a misapplication of public funds, and that much more useful results may be attained in other ways.

Primarily, the term "disinfectant" in connection with the work of the Department of Street Cleaning of New York, is a misnomer. Its use shows ignorance of what it is desired to accomplish and of the reactions effected. The problem is not one of disinfection at all, since there is no reason to suppose that any considerable part of the offensive material is infected, and every reason to feel sure that if it was infected that condition would not be seriously affected by the means now employed. The destruction of all pathogenic

germs and malevolent bacteria in masses of city refuse is doubtless possible of accomplishment, but scarcely so as an incident of handling such refuse in large quantities. The means required would have to be so powerful as to menace the health, and possibly the lives, of persons employed in the movement of such material. Most of the highly efficient germicides are rankly toxical in character, and their employment should be permitted only under expert supervision and with every safeguard. The conditions of practical use in the open are very different from those surrounding a laboratory experiment, or the purification of a sick room which can be sealed, or the treatment of bedding and the like which may be sterilized in an oven, with mercuric bichloride or sulphur anhydride, or by boiling. Not only would such agents be impossible of application to the waste collections of a city, *en masse,* but they would be ruinously costly. Consequently, their employment is not attempted, and cannot be recommended. As substitutes, we find in municipal employment so-called "disinfectants" which consist chiefly of inexpensive solutions of relatively inefficient agents. They are useless.

Those familiar with the most advanced municipal sanitation of Europe have noted the fact that solutions are no longer used in continental cities as deodorants or disinfectants. As a vehicle for chemical agents designed to arrest fermentation and decay, water is comparable to petroleum in fire extinguishment. No fermentable chemical species will ferment except in the presence of water, or unless it is kept by means of water in direct contact with some specific ferment, which water, although not contributing to the substance of the products which figure in the equation, nevertheless induces the reaction of its presence. In municipal work solutions made by dissolving a very little chemical in a great deal of water are more likely to stimulate than to arrest the processes they are employed to check. The application is necessarily ineffective unless the material treated may be kept submerged in it. For this reason sprinkling with a solution is usually worthless.

In some instances dry agents are used by the Department of Street Cleaning. These are usually kaolin or some equivalent inert diluent, carrying small quantities of carbolic acid. Such preparations do not cost much, but whether they are cheap or dear would seem to depend a great deal more upon efficiency than price. My experience is that they are neither deodorants nor disinfectants; that they merely emphasize a nuisance by creating a somewhat more assertive and scarcely more agreeable smell of their own, and that from the point of view of the sanitary engineer and the biologist they are without value.

New York Practice in Chemical Treatment

The present method in Manhattan and the Bronx is to apply deodorants to ashes, rubbish and street sweepings during the process of loading the scows. This treatment is done by the use of a solution of chloride of lime. The cost of supplying this chemical does not by any means represent the total cost incident to its use. Its active corrosive action destroys tanks, hose, nozzles, rub-

ber boots and clothing worn by the laborers, and even the planking of the docks and scows. In order to save the docks, carbolized kaolin is substituted for most of the uses at these points. It is sprinkled on the dumping board, around the compartments under the board, and wherever it seems to be needed. The same agents are used to a greater or less extent where conditions seem to make it imperative, at the land dumps in the Bronx, and at Riker's Island. Other agents have been tested, but have not as yet been admitted into general use.

During the season of 1905, covering a period of about five months, from June first to November first, the department used for this work——

45,000 lbs.	Chloride of Lime, at $1.35 per hundred,	$620.75
6,800 lbs.	Carbolic Powder, at 5c. per lb.,	340.00
600 lbs.	Heraklite Powder, at 4c. per lb., (experimental),	24.00
53,380 lbs.	deodorant, on nearly a million loads, total,	$984.75

or approximately 10c. per load.

All disinfection and deodorization of garbage is done after delivery on the scows, by the Sanitary Utilization Co. I have no data as to this work. The most superficial observation, however, is sufficient to demonstrate that such treatment as garbage receives does not by any means deodorize it, either for transit to Barren Island or for the handling that follows delivery at that point.

There seems to be a general feeling among the officers of the department with whom I have conversed that the reagents now used serve only as disguisers of odors, and that neither deodorization nor disinfection is attained.

No systematic deodorization other than that performed by the Sanitary Utilization Co. is practised in Brooklyn, and this is done after delivery on the scows, if at all. There has been some experimentation on the part of the rubbish and ash handling contractors, but so far as I have learned there has been no regular employment of deodorants. In Brooklyn, however, there is less need for it, as the rubbish is not mixed with ashes and street sweepings, while the latter are carried in closed receptacles to remote points of disposal. It would relieve whatever odors and nuisances there are about the stations if proper chemicals were employed in moderate quantities in the pits in which the cans are set, on the trackway, which is especially liable to litter, and wherever else conditions seemed to warrant it.

It will be seen from the above that the work of the Department in this respect, while not, in my opinion, without value, is relatively superficial and not highly efficient. It does not begin until the material has created practically all the nuisance it is capable of during its passage through the streets.

Deodorization and Disinfection

There is a good deal of popular misapprehension, as well as some that is not popular but passes for science, respecting the relations of deodorants and disinfectants, respectively, to municipal sanitation. For example, in a paper read at the last annual convention of the American Society of Municipal Improvements, on "A Standard for Disinfectants" in municipal use, I find the following, which passed unchallenged, probably for the reason that it reflected the views of those to whom it was addressed:

> The difference between the disinfectant and the deodorizer should be mentioned, for too often the public is misled to believe that the work of a true disinfectant is being performed by a deodorizer, when the truth may be that the latter is perfectly useless except as a destroyer of disagreeable smells. It is important to use and recommend for the purpose of sanitary disinfection exclusively those products which not only have the properties necessary to a deodorizer but also the more valuable and vital properties required of a disinfectant worthy of the name.

At first glance this sounds very much like nonsense. Studied more carefully it assumes the form of a half truth, which is more misleading than an obvious misstatement.

Anything offered as a disinfectant, antizymotic or antiseptic which does not deodorize is worthless.

To be an efficient deodorant a material must possess as many of the properties of a true disinfectant as attach to maximum efficiency as an antizymotic.

To sterilize and disinfect it is necessary that ferments and the processes of organic decomposition shall be arrested, and the propagation of destructive bacteria prevented. Except in the case of some forms of matter—as for example the secretions of the anal glands of the Mephitis Mephitica (Common Skunk), certain flowers, certain chemicals like carbon bisulphide, sulphuretted hydrogen and the like, which have disagreeable odors of their own, or at all events odors antipathetic to the human sense of smell,—evil smells are Nature's danger signals, giving notice that forces are at work which are inimical to health or life. They are the result of ferments or decay. Complete deodorization in such instances is impossible until these processes are checked and nothing remains in a condition to generate or liberate offensive gases or fœtid organic vapors.

This is not merely academic; it is in the highest degree practical in its relation to municipal wastes. I have made the above quotation and given the answer to it as the simplest and easiest way of correcting what I regard as a popular misapprehension as to the relation of deodorants and disinfectants. As a matter of fact, to be either an agent must be both. That this is not irrelevant to the subject immediately under discussion will appear when it is remembered that in dealing with the nuisance-aspects of municipal garbage

and other offensive refuse the problem is primarily and almost exclusively one of deodorization, and that if this can be effected by practical means and at a cost proportionate to its value in public comfort and civic self respect, it follows, *pari passu,* that we have accomplished all of disinfection which is either normally necessary, or, in the case of the wastes of a city like New York, economically possible.

Working at the Wrong End

From what has been stated as to the present employment of chemical aids in deodorization in the street cleaning service, it will be seen that what is attempted is largely what needs least to be done. When a cart has reached the dumping board and shot its contents into the scow waiting to receive it, whether the local nuisance is more or less is of comparatively little consequence. At the dumps the material is accumulated in quantities which render effective treatment practically impossible. Moreover, it is at a point given up to a use recognized as offensive, and rarely visited except by those having business there. It is in the open air, and the number of people more than momentarily inconvenienced—as in the case of passengers on passing steamers—is very small. This is true until it reaches final disposition. But offensive wastes have a history preceding arrival at the dumping board, which is of vastly greater interest to the public than attaches to what subsequently happens to them.

The Garbage and Street Sweeping Collection Cart

Offensive wastes are gathered wherever they are offered for collection. One of the units of this collection is the garbage pail, filled often to overflowing and left on the sidewalk to await the coming of the D. S. C. wagon. Its contents are restricted to organic refuse, for which reason it is capable in warm weather of attaining the maximum "nuisance value."

This quality was imparted to garbage by the ordinance requiring the separate collection of the three classes of domestic waste—viz., ashes, garbage and paper rubbish. The passage of this ordinance was secured through the influence of Col. George E. Waring, Jr., From the point of view of the public health and comfort this separation was and is to be regretted. Col. Waring was a very energetic and capable Commissioner of Street Cleaning; but his judgment was not inerrant, and his imagination was abnormally developed. He expected to recover large values in paper-rubbish, to have the ashes kept clean and ready for safe use in filling, and to make garbage a source of revenue to the City great enough to extinguish the whole costs of departmental operation through eager competition for it among those engaged in the recovery of grease and tankage. He acted according to his light. Incineration was then at its beginnings. Destructors were crude in design and relatively inefficient; and as I remember his views, he regarded the incineration of anything except the residuum of rubbish picking as a monumental

waste. That he generally exaggerated the value of recoveries from the City's refuse, and did not give sufficient weight to the fact that exemption from the infliction of a dangerous public nuisance is of more importance than even a large money gain for the City, is evident. Primarily, the separate collection of ashes and garbage emphasizes the garbage nuisance in every aspect and relation. When mixed, the ashes absorb the fluid constituents of the garbage and tend to deodorize it. Bad as was the old "ash barrel" of twenty years or more ago, it was much more tolerable than the can of garbage festering in the sun, and making itself apparent to two senses in very disagreeable fashion. Separate collection was necessary to the scheme of garbage reduction; but I venture the prediction that it will not outlive the adoption of the saner and safer method of final disposition by incineration.

The cart which collects garbage is a peripatetic amplification of the garbage can. As it zig-zags from side to side down a residence street, it becomes more and more dreadful to contemplate and smell as its load grows. The citizen who cannot avoid passing it averts his face and hurries by. If in his house during the season of open windows when the garbage cart is near, he does not need to be told what is polluting the atmosphere. When full, the cart starts on its journey to the dump—a longer or shorter haul, according to circumstances. The average haul in Manhattan is about three-quarters of a mile. In the upper West Side section, between Central Park and the Hudson River, it averages about a mile and a half. For this entire distance the full garbage cart is a nuisance that should not be tolerated in a civilized community.

Arrived at the dumping board, it shoots its contents into the scow below. Owing to the mass there to be dealt with, and the necessity for forking it over in the operation of picking and trimming, anything like effective deodorization is impossible. I should, however, qualify the term necessary as applied to trimming, by explaining that it is merely necessary to the convenience of the contractor. By exercising a little judgment in the spot where the loads are dumped, and by occasionally moving the position of the scow a few feet, the load can be made to "cone" naturally, and the scow can be made to float on even keel without the aid of any manual labor. This is sufficient for safe transit but it would reduce the full load of the scow about thirty per cent. There is also the excuse for trimming that such objects as glass and metal would damage the machinery of reduction, and must be removed. Garbage is, however, twice manually handled after its arrival at Barren Island, and these substances could be removed there quite as well as at the New York water front.

On its way back to its collection district the garbage cart is scarcely less offensive than when full. "Like the vase in which roses have once been distilled," it retains its characteristic odor until sun dried, and often a good while thereafter. The sum of the nuisance resulting from garbage collection and cartage in the manner described is to that caused by the loaded or loading scows as a mountain is to a molehill. Many thousands may and do

suffer from it for every one who is inconvenienced by the foul smells at the dumping boards or afloat. Hence, to collect garbage reeking with foulness, trundle it through the streets in like case, and, when dumped on the scow, attempt to treat it chemically and make it odorless, even if possible of successful accomplishment, is to begin at the wrong end and spend money unprofitably.

Odorless and Inoffensive Collection

Suppose, by way of contrast, it were found possible to send out in the morning a cart as inoffensive as an empty flour barrel. Suppose, further, that the driver of this cart was provided with a chemical agent, sufficiently powerful as a deodorant to accomplish its purpose with every kind and condition of ill-smelling organic matter, and was required to use this discreetly as his load grew, to the end that, when it reached the dump and was inspected, it would be found odorless and with every zymotic process effectually arrested for a longer time than is needed for even a leisurely final disposition. Thus equipped, the cart would have made its journey without offense to citizens who, however tolerant of bad smells of their own making, object to those of other people's making. Its odorless and sterilized load would be discharged in that condition upon the scow awaiting it. Whether the accumulation there was one ton or five hundred tons, it would not be a nuisance, even if forked over in the trimming, and the values recovered by the contractor might be brought ashore much more safely than at present.

Such a procedure would represent a sane and practical employment of chemical aids in the minimization of the garbage nuisance of the city. The same method would equally admit of application to offensive waste materials other than domestic garbage, such as the scrapings of foul streets, the cleanings of gutters, catch-basin sludge and the like. There would be no need to apply it, as long as separate collection continues, to ashes or to most paper-rubbish. The latter may sometimes be infected, but is rarely offensive; the former is neither.

In a matter of this kind the Municipality owes it to its own interests to conform to the standards of civic decency which it attempts to fix for the regulation of private or corporate interests. No trade would be permitted to exist within the city limits which made and maintained a nuisance comparable to the collection and cartage of garbage by present methods. If the evils briefly described were unavoidable, we might accept them with complacency; but they are not.

From experiments made by me in this and other cities, I can say with confidence that the most offensive garbage and the foulest waste of every kind may be deodorized and made inoffensive by very simple means, and at a cost much less than the value of the resulting public advantage. In how many ways and by how many different agents this result may be accomplished I do not know; hence, I hesitate in such a report as this either to describe the means or name the agent by which, in practice, I have effected the immediate deodorization of the most offensive garbage that could be selected for test from the midsummer collections of Manhattan and Brooklyn. The reason for this hesitancy is that the choice of the agent should depend upon the results of intelligent experiment in which efficiency, cost and ease of application were considered. Every chem-

ical preparation offered under conditions admitting of its consideration for use should be tested, and that selected which best meets the requirements of the service, everything considered.

The practical agent of deodorization for use in garbage and street sweeping collections, should be judged by the following standards:

(a) It must be convenient for inexpert application.

(b) The quantity needed to accomplish satisfactory results must not be greater than may be carried without encumbering the cart.

(c) Its action must be immediate and durable.

(d) It must not increase the wetness of a load, but should tend to absorb water—at least to the extent required to dissolve it.

(e) Its cost must not be greater than the economic value of the results of its use would justify. Whether it is more or less costly per unit of quantity than some other and less useful preparation is immaterial.

(f) It must be wholly devoid of toxical properties.

(g) It must have no smell of its own, either alone or in combination with the material it acts upon.

(h) It must be non-corrosive of wood, metal, rubber or leather, the tools and appliances of the department or the clothing of the men handling it.

The practical test of a material meeting these general requirements should begin with an empty cart, preferably clean from washing at the stable, to the end that it shall start on its round without any trace of the "sour" odor which is likely to characterize it if only washed out with a hose. As it receives the units of its load, and gradually builds up its contents, each superimposed layer of an inch or so in thickness should receive the treatment necessary to deodorize it. To this end the driver would need to be provided with enough of the material for at least one round of collections, and might replenish, if necessary, at the dump.

The standard of efficiency should be that a cartload of garbage or other offensive wastes, thus treated, should reach the dump odorless and inoffensive, no matter what it contains. If this is done, the public nuisance and danger of the present method of collection and cartage would be minimized, if not wholly eliminated. No administrative difficulty need be expected in enforcing the use of such a material. The results would establish a sufficient test of the veracity of the employe, as to his use of it for the purpose intended and in the manner prescribed.

I can at the moment think of no greater or more beneficial step in the direction of practical reform in municipal sanitation than this would be. It is a matter of experience with all classes of our citizens that the present methods of garbage collection and cartage are insanitary, disgusting and disreputable. They tend to lower, if not to destroy, all proper and worthy standards of public pride and civic decency. These evils are unnecessary; but they are not likely to be remedied along the lines of departmental conservatism in adherance to methods which have the sacred sanction of established precedent. If I may venture a suggestion on this point, it is that the tests by which it is sought to establish a method of odorless collection and cartage be conducted under the direction of a committee of citizens, not employes of the department, and consequently not so inured to evil smells from long familiarity with them that they have lost the power of recognizing a nuisance when it exists.

Respectfully,

James C. Bayles.

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

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WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. V. OCTOBER, 1906 No. 3

The regular Monthly Meeting of the League for October will be omitted.

KATHERINE T. RHODES,
Assistant Secretary.

Greater New York's Board of Health and the Milk Supply

By JOSEPHINE REDDING

NATHAN STRAUSS AND HIS PASTEURIZING PHILANTHROPY

New York was so fortunate once upon a time to have, as the president of its Board of Health, a kind-hearted and intelligent observer who investigated matters inimical to the health of the city both while he held office and after he had resigned. Nathan Strauss, the official in question, is a philanthropist whose benefactions have never been properly appreciated by the general public, and yet it has been given to few men to serve their generation so well as has this wholesale savior of child life. Not alone from extinction does Mr. Strauss rescue many thousands of infants annually, but he has spared these little innocents all the varieties of suffering that result from the use of impure milk. Nearly a score of years ago Mr. Strauss, while at the head of the Board of Health, noticed among other vital statistical facts that the death rate of children in a certain public institution was 40 per cent, although the city had its own herd of cows, which were kept on the island, carefully tended and apparently in perfect health. This appalling death rate gave Mr. Strauss great concern, and his investigations led him to suspect the milk as the active cause of the child slaughter.

Later, by way of experiment, encouraged by the results abroad obtained elsewhere through the Pasteurizing of milk, Mr. Strauss, at his own

expense, installed on the island a complete Pasteurization plant. In the very next year the death rate dropped from 40 to 22 per cent., the only change made being the substitution of Pasteurized milk for the raw milk. No other innovation or modification was introduced in either diet or hygiene. Convinced by this as well as other investigations of the dangers to infant health that lurk in raw milk, Mr. Strauss began the establishment in New York of milk depots, from which are distributed glasses and bottles of pure milk. It is fifteen years since this philanthropy was started, and the summer demand for purified milk has so far outgrown what can be distributed at seventeen booths that Mr. Strauss has made arrangements for an expansion of about four times the present capacity for purifying milk, by the construction of a new laboratory at a cost of $100,000 and which will be the most complete building of the kind in the world.

In a public address in Paris, October, 1905, Mr. Strauss in explaining his reasons for founding the free distribution of Pasteurized milk, charged that milk—raw milk, diseased milk—is responsible for the largest percentage of illness in the world. "It is the one article of diet in which disease and death may lurk without giving any suspicion from its taste, smell or appearance. Why, then, use it in its raw form?" In the opinion of Mr. Strauss the only safe rule for large cities is the Pasteurization of the entire milk supply—and to make it a municipal function. The philanthropist reinforces his opinions by the citation of vital statistics, which show that in New York and other large cities the milk fed to babies and children is the chief cause of consumption among them. Fifty per cent. of all the children who die have been infected by milk tuberculosis through their food. In 1893 there were distributed through Mr. Strauss' philanthropy 34,400 bottles of milk, and by 1905 the distribution had reached the surprising total, in round numbers, of 2,700,000 bottles and over a million glasses drunk at the booths.

THE PHILANTHROPIST'S OPINIONS ENDORSED.

The opinions of Mr. Strauss, in regard to the absolute need of Pasteurizing the milk distributed in this city, have had for a long time the support of physicians who are specialists in children's diseases, among whom is Dr. Abram Jacobi, who is a strong advocate of the method of rendering milk innocuous. This authority says "that this process, or something like it, is absolutely necessary to preserve the child's health, and that when properly carried out the heating does not destroy the flavor and produces slight chemical changes. Impure milk is likely to contain the germs of typhoid fever, cholera, tuberculosis, or diphtheria. These germs are destroyed by the heating, and the product is nutritious and of great value in summer. If the city had a Pasteurized milk supply, many children would be saved from gastro-enteritis, nephritis, degeneration of the liver and other diseases."

EUROPEAN CITIES SAFEGUARD MILK SUPPLY.

Dr. Ernest J. Lederle, former Health Commissioner, in an interview with the *Mail and Express*, stated that milk is now very generally Pasteurized or sterilized in Europe. The system of milk inspection in many European countries is so rigid that it amounts to compulsory Pasteurization, as the European health commissioners in Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands especially, not only test the milk for quality and adulterants, but for bacteria as well. The milk is thus carefully and thoroughly examined and the foreign dealers find it nearly impossible to keep within the requirements of the Boards of Health without Pasteurizing. No fewer than three hundred cities of Europe are devoting public funds to the Pasteurization of the local milk supply, while the Health Commissioner of Greater New York not only did not sound the alarm over the milk supply and educate the public as to the possibility of danger in the raw milk supply in cities, but so late as the spring of 1906 opposed the Pasteurization of milk on flimsy pleas. Here are officials charged with the health of the city refusing to employ the only effective means of safeguarding the milk supply of four millions of persons, many thousands of whom are infants!

HEALTH BOARD'S NEGLIGENCE.

The Board has displayed considerable activity and interest in tuberculosis sanitoria, but has given apparently no thought to the development of the white scourge and other diseases through the distribution of impure milk, although one-half of the deaths of children under five years are due to diarrheal diseases, which are confined almost exclusively to children who are fed on cow's milk. The Health Board's attitude toward this vital matter is discreditable alike to their intelligence, their professional ability, and their humanity, for they offer no substitution for Pasteurization, but consider they have done their duty, incredible as it may appear, when they have sent out fifteen inspectors. Taking advantage of an agitation for purified milk carried on by the press, the Board of Health this spring asked for additional inspectors and their force was doubled. But what an impossible task is set these thirty inspectors can very readily be understood by glancing over a few facts.

Milk is sold in 25,000 places in Greater New York, and the daily consumption in the city is about one and one-half million quarts, half in cans, half in bottles. The inspectors find, naturally, that the largest quantity of milk that becomes unfit for use is sold in the stores of small dealers, grocers, bakers, and in delicatessen shops. Thirty men for what should be the very frequent inspection of 25,000 milk depots!

A pretense is made sometimes by representatives of the Board of Health that the inspectors safeguard the milk supply by visiting "all the receiving stations and creameries and also the farms where the milk comes from." This seems a preposterous statement, for how can thirty inspec-

tors inspect 9,000 dairy farms, many of them hundreds of miles away, as well as properly care for the 25,000 local milk depots that distribute 1,500,000 quarts daily?

The city milk supply is on an average from twenty-four to forty-eight hours old before it reaches the consumer, this long interval allowing germs ample opportunity to increase and multiply, and it can be readily seen what unceasing vigilance is necessary after the milk is shipped to insure its purity. When there are taken into consideration such notorious facts as the prevalence of tuberculosis in cows, and the further disquieting one that on the average farm the conditions are such that the milk becomes heavily contaminated, the appalling stupidity of depending on thirty inspectors to prevent infection from an enormous supply of raw milk daily becomes apparent. Even if trained bacteriologists did not maintain that the inspection of milk is not sufficient for large cities only, a knowledge of the enormous quantity of milk received daily in New York (1,500,000 quarts), and the 25,000 places where it is sold would be necessary for any person possessed of common sense to realize that the present attempt at inspection is a ghastly farce. The inspection carried on by the Health Department is largely ineffective even when it is made, as it is concerned almost wholly with lack of fats and adulteration, few bacteriological analyses being made; the tuberculin test not used. Such inspection has been pronounced as insufficient and inefficient by experts, and in regard to this matter the *Mail and Express* published data as to a dozen cities of New York State which shows:

(1) The importance of examining milch kine for tuberculosis.

(2) The insufficiency of inspection for adulterants.

(3) The value of Pasteurization as destroying tubercule bacilli and reducing the number of deaths from tuberculosis.

Troy, 16 *per cent. of deaths due to tuberculosis.*

Practically no municipal attention to the milk supply; no bacteriological or other examinations; tuberculin test not used.

Auburn, 15.4 *per cent. of deaths due to tuberculosis.*

No bacteriological examination of milk; tuberculin test not used; inspection only for cream volume; practically no Pasteurization.

Mount Vernon, 12.8 *per cent. of deaths due to tuberculosis.*

Inspection chiefly for adulteration; some bacteriological examinations; tuberculin test not used; practically no Pasteurization.

New York City, 11.9 *per cent. of deaths from tuberculosis.*

Milk inspection almost solely for adulterants and lack of fats; *few bacteriological analyses; tuberculin test not used.* Pasteurization discouraged by Health Department.

Watertown, 11.6 *per cent. of deaths due to tuberculosis.*

Inspection for adulteration; no bacteriological examinations; tuberculin test not used. Effort being made to induce farmers to apply this test to their cattle. Practically no Pasteurization.

Albany, 11.3 *per cent. of deaths due to tuberculosis.*

No municipal inspection of milk. Only one firm Pasteurizes a portion of its supply.

Rochester, 10.9 *per cent. of deaths due to tuberculosis.*

Some attention to bacteria; tuberculin test not used. Pasteurization abandoned after great success in reducing death rate, and "model dairy" system substituted.

Elmira, 9.3 *per cent. of deaths due to tuberculosis.*

All dairies inspected, but tuberculin test not applied; no bacteriological examinations; practically no Pasteurization.

Buffalo, 7.6 *per cent. of deaths due to tuberculosis.*

All herds in city limits examined twice a year, but tuberculin test not applied. Pasteurized milk used in increasing quantities.

Syracuse, 6.3 *per cent. of deaths due to tuberculosis.*

No dairy licensed except on certificate of veterinarian that the cows are free from disease. Tuberculin test used; increasing quantities of milk Pasteurized.

Yonkers, 5.8 *per cent. of deaths due to tuberculosis.*

Cows examined for tuberculosis; milk analyzed for bacteria; big dealers Pasteurize.

Binghamton, 5.8 *per cent. of deaths due to tuberculosis.*

No municipal inspection of milk, but over 50 per cent. of the supply is Pasteurized.

Utica, 1.9 *per cent. of deaths due to tuberculosis.*

No milk brought by train; all herds examined for tuberculosis.

This descending scale of death is regarded as striking evidence of the fact that the true strategic point of attack in the fight against the "white plague" is the milk supply, and that the method of achieving victory is the application of the tuberculin test to all milch kine and the Pasteurization of the supply.

EXPANDED FRESH AIR AGENCIES AND INCREASED MILK SALE AT STRAUSS BOOTHS.

Those charged with the administration of the Health Department of Greater New York have tried to minimize the bad showing of various comparative statistics between this city and others in regard to infant mortality by emphasizing the fact of the metropolis having a very large contingent of ignorant mothers among low-grade foreigners. They entirely ignore the offsets for this, the mortality prevented by the sale of over two million quarts of Pasteurized milk at the Nathan Strauss booths, and the fact that no other city in the country supports with great generosity so many free air agencies for the saving of infants. The Board of Health even gives the credit for a lessened death rate for a week to what it calls a "rigid"—save the mark—inspection of milk and meat. Could official misrepresentation make a more baseless claim? The Board entirely ignores the fact that this summer has been cool, a factor that contributes more than others to keep down infant mortality in the tenements, as excessive heat, besides depleting the baby's strength, affects deleteriously the milk kept in the home, and that in the petty shops from which the tenement population largely gets its milk supply. They also ignore the active

campaign carried on this summer against impure milk by the press, especially the *Mail and Express.* The Health Commissioner characterizes as rigid the attempted inspection by thirty officials of 25,000 milk depots in Greater New York and about 9,000 dairies all over the State, some of them 400 miles away, which supply the city with milk.

A SUMMING UP—THE BOARD OE HEALTH'S SHORTCOMINGS AS TO THE MILK SUPPLY.

To sum up, the officials, who make a great parade of concern in regard to tuberculosis, have refused to adequately safeguard the milk supply. They have allowed 10,500,000 quarts of raw milk to enter Greater New York every week and be distributed without proper precautions for keeping it pure, although between dairy and consumer there is an interval in many instances of from one to two days. They pretend that a force of thirty inspectors can exercise a rigid inspection over this flood of milk. The Commissioner whistles down the wind as a negligible contribution to the problem of protecting the milk supply the fifteen years' demonstration of the vital necessity there exists for the purification of milk by the Pasteur system, or some other equally efficient one, of all milk dispensed in a city, that has been made by Nathan Strauss, in New York, and by the officials of some three hundred European cities. And again, although the tendency of cows to tuberculosis, even where herds are carefully looked after, is a fact well known to every veterinarian in the State, it is not the practice of the Board of Health to apply the tuberculin test in inspecting milk.

Suppose the Board should set out deliberately but secretly to slaughter the infants of Greater New York, in what particular could it make its work of destruction more effective than it is now? Could the Board compass this supposititious purpose more directly and effectively than it does now in exposing the infant population to the dangers of a raw milk supply that is not alone most inadequately inspected (the number of officers charged with the duty being absurdly small considering the field they have to cover), but even such examinations as are made are largely ineffective because the tuberculin test is not applied, although it is well known to veterinarians and medical practitioners that cows are so very prone to tuberculosis that they are being constantly destroyed all over this as well as other States. When the public comes to as general an appreciation of the possible perils of the milk supply as it has now of the water supply, the incompetence the Board of Health has established will become a glaring fact as well as a tragic one.

It does not weaken the force or the appositeness of this presentment of official inefficiency, that at the close of the summer season of 1906, after being criticised by metropolitan journals, the *Mail and Express* especially doing yeoman and most intelligent service in forcing the Health Board to do its duty, that the Board finally came out so tardily for Pasteurization. How many thousands of children's lives have been sacrificed by the Board of Health's slack methods of safeguarding Greater New York's milk supply, but the record is one that certainly does not encourage public confidence in such a Board.

Financial Appeal

To the Members of the Woman's Municipal League:

The Woman's Municipal League, since its founding by Mrs. Josephine Shaw Lowell, has sought to inculcate in the women of New York a deeper and more dynamic sense of their citizenship and of its duties.

It no longer successfully—and smugly—can be said that woman's duty stops at her own doorstep. It does not stop until it has made her influence for good felt as a power in every administrative department of New York City.

To give collective power to this individual desire for cleaner streets, better sanitation and purer administrative conditions in all departments of the municipality is the object of the Woman's Municipal League.

Three lines of effort are pursued:

First—The public monthly meetings at the new headquarters, 19 East Twenty-sixth Street. Every meeting is addressed by an authority on some subject pertinent to municipal administration. This familiarizes women with the functions and duties of the various city departments; so that practically it makes a woman better able to co-operate with them by informing her, not only of their work and needs, but of her own and others' rights and the best way to secure and maintain them. A woman will hesitate much less to make an appeal for the removal of obstructions on fire escapes when she has heard the Fire Commissioner recite the dangers of such obstructions and of his ample powers to remove them upon notification of their existence. And this holds true of every other department.

Second—Committees of members to co-operate with the various city departments to secure needed reform.

Third—Groups of suburban women are interested in local improvement. This work we consider especially effective, as it brings woman closely and immediately in touch with her community. The woman who has been the means of having a dangerous gully properly bridged and fenced, or of having lamps placed on a street notoriously dangerous after dark, feels that she is indeed part and parcel of her town; and the community benefits by her civic feeling.

The creation of the present License Bureau for the licensing of employment agencies, and the correcting of the hideous evils incident to the business of their agencies as formerly conducted, was directly due to the two years' work of the Legislative Committee of the League. The entire and exacting work of collecting the statistics which led to the establishment of the Bureau and the correction of employment agency abuses was done by the women of the League.

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The League this year needs a supplement of $3,500 to its regular income to maintain the work now started.

Will *you* be one of

Ten women to give $100 each;
Fifty women to give $25 each;
One hundred women to give $10 each?

Any amount will be gladly received, as it can be well used; but the League needs sustaining subscriptions as indicated above.

The Finance Committee urge upon you the wide-reaching and enduring benefits of this work.

Contributions should be sent to the Woman's Municipal League, 19 East Twenty-sixth Street. Checks made payable to Catharine S. Leverich, Treasurer.

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

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November, 1906

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WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. V. NOVEMBER, 1906 No. 4

The Annual Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, November 8, at 11 a. m., in the Assembly Room of the League, 19 East 26th Street.

KATHERINE T. RHODES,
Assistant Secretary.

Juvenile Civic League Work

By Rev. CAROLINE BARTLETT CRANE

If we look into the face of a child whom we meet upon the street, with some thought of his future, we know that he may become almost anything—"lawyer, doctor, merchant, chief, rich man, poor man"—or anything else in the category. But we are certain of one thing and that is, if that child lives he is going to become a citizen and a neighbor. Education is defined as an equipment for life; then certainly a scheme of education which has no special regard to equipping a boy or girl for citizenship or for life as a neighbor fails to magnify its office, and to that extent fails of its highest and best. We see this failure registered in the civic apathy of the present generation. We read it in cities "corrupt and contented." If we have the wit we know that the failure of public officials to do their duty is, in the last analysis, our failure to do ours. We read it in communities where dirt and disorder have ruled so long that we have forgotten the cleanliness and beauty which should environ civilized human beings. Few of us, indeed, have received any special training in youth in civic consciousness and responsibility. Few of us were taught a reverent and loving regard for order and cleanliness and honor, not merely in the home and the surroundings to which we own title, but in that larger home and that more eminent domain—the city in which we live. We take ourselves in hand late, and do the best we can with ourselves and—with others.

And among these "others" of paramount importance to us are the children. Here are millions of school children in America already banded together in an organization the like of which grown people do not know; the organization of the public schools, which are cosmopolitan, democratic, almost communal in their character. There the children are brought together five days a week—washed and unwashed, rich and poor, native and foreign born. What is the reason the public undertakes to give education without money and without price to every child? It is because it is a long-time investment. It is a supreme act of faith. It registers the belief of the American public that it will some day reap a reward in a better citizenship and a higher patriotism because of the advantages given to these children through the public schools. So we have to begin with these schools—these grounds and buildings—this wonderful equipment for the education of the children, which we believe to be of supreme importance.

If we wish to inculcate better civic ideals, how shall we begin? Once in a while some volunteer worker has both the gift and the consecration to do a great and noble work; but for the most part we are not specially fitted to inaugurate and carry out an independent work. It seems to me that this one thing we want to remember: that the great original juvenile civic improvement league is the public school itself. For that very purpose was it born and brought into the world. Here is our Juvenile Civic League ready made, and our business is to intelligently and sympathetically cooperate with these schools and to subordinate our efforts to the public school system.

How shall we work it out? Although we may not many of us be able to have a share in this work at first hand, yet by study and thought and mutual comparison we may learn some of the things which ought to be done. It seems to me one of the things we do know is, that if civics and sociology belong anywhere in the school curriculum, they belong from the primary department upward; and that if there is anything on earth that cannot be successfully taught by mere definitions, it is civics and sociology. There must be some system of government of these children. Force is the easiest; is it the best? We say not. Why should not the school itself become the civic and sociological laboratory? It seems to me the best thing to do is to organize a school government largely upon the municipal plan which will give the children a large degree of self-direction (under the constant supervision of the teacher, and with the teacher as the ultimate court of appeals). Not mock courts, and sham councils, but real ones which give the daily administration of school discipline largely into the hands of the children themselves. By actually making, administering and obeying laws the child learns the meaning of the things he will later be called upon to do in a larger way.

If we had this voluntary civic order in the public schools material order and beauty would follow. Take the "city code of law" adopted by the children themselves in the "school city," such as the genius of Mr. Gill is inaugurating in several cities. We have there such by-laws and articles of the constitution as this:

"Do nothing unto others that you wish they should not do unto you."

"Anything which interferes with the order and discipline of the school rooms or halls, or any other place under the government of the school is prohibited."

"Any profane or rude conduct, anything which is intentionally unkind is prohibited."

"Anything which interferes with the order and beauty of our school city is prohibited."

What an easy step it is from this protection of all things which they feel belong to their school into the school garden and other realms of civic activity. These features ought to become an integral part of the public school system. If the school garden is to be a fixture let it be legally adopted into the school curriculum and correlated with other branches of school work.

If clubs are to supply the need of social training and culture, in order to develop self-control and justice among boys and girls in their play time as well as the school time, then the club advisor should be just as much a part of the public school as the school teacher.

There must always be a few in the van of a movement who see what ought to be done and who are willing to sacrifice time and money and energy to do it. Our function is to inaugurate good things for which the general public is not yet ready, after having duly proved that they are good. Then the public will support them. We must put these good things upon a solid foundation by incorporating them into that already existing junior civic association, the public school.

Cleveland has taken the lead not only in junior but in senior civic improvement work, and Ohio has done much more than any other State in the West to bless our public school system. It has made a law that any Ohio child may go to any public school in Ohio without paying any tuition; and it has led in unionizing the schools of our country districts. In our part of Michigan we are making the greatest efforts to banish the old ungraded district school and to have all children taught in up-to-date graded schools. Civic improvement is needed just as much among those who live amid Nature's beauties, as it is among those who live in the crowded cities. In Kalamazoo we are working as best we can with the children. We are following out the Cleveland idea of gardening, and we have great faith in it. Our children are singing to the tune of "Marching Through Georgia":

Hurrah! Hurrah! Our city clean and free!
Hurrah! and beautiful as it can be!
That's the work for boys and girls just like you and me:
Love, serve, guard, our own dear city!

We will ne'er defile her, with a careless hand
Flinging ugliness about and spoiling all the land.
"On Honor" and "On Duty" we will firmly stand:
Love, serve, guard, our own dear city!

SECOND CHORUS. (Repeat.)

We will ne'er deface her; we will ne'er destroy
One dear thing that makes for beauty or for joy.
Beauty *add* to beauty, every girl and boy:
Love, serve, guard, our own dear city!

When I hear them singing words like these I have great hopes.

Some day, when you and I shall be still lagging more or less superfluous upon the stage of life, these boys and girls will take up the various work which drops from our hands. May those coming after us find this world a little better place than we did, because we did our duty in our day and our generation, and as we saw it.

Morrisania Local Improvement District Branch of The Woman's Municipal League

MONTHLY REPORT

The Executive Committee of the Morrisania Local Improvement District Branch held its thirty-second regular meeting on October 22d with a full attendance only two members being absent. Reports, however, were meager, as absence during the summer months caused a cessation in the ordinary activities of the several divisions of this branch. However, the Kingsbridge members reported that the new park for which they were working was an assured matter, and that $70,000 had been obtained by the Park Commissioner for the building of the lake, south of the Dutch Garden in Van Cortlandt Park. The idea was advanced by the chairman of the Kingsbridge Division that the common people could be reached and interested in the principles of the League through a semi-official visiting committee, and the suggestion was eagerly adopted.

An overflowing cesspool has been stopped through the influence of the Kingsbridge League members, and the Tremont members have also been able to induce the Park Commissioner to put the fountain connected with the municipal building in running order.

Each member was urged to subscribe regularly to the City Record, thus enabling her to keep in touch with all proposed improvements in the Bronx as well as elsewhere.

Respectfully submitted,

JULIA L. D. LONGFELLOW,
Chairman.

Notes from the Research Department

The Research Department made a special investigation this summer of Brooklyn employment agencies. It was supported by the Prospect Branch of the Woman's Municipal League, and covered all the agencies in the borough. A report of this investigation is now in preparation.

The Research Department succeeded this summer, with the help of an investigator from the Association for the Protection of Negro Women, in closing up of one of the most notorious of the Brooklyn Negro employment agencies, on a charge of doing fraudulent and immoral business. Numerous suits had been brought against the proprietor by individuals whom he had defrauded, both here and in Norfolk, and this was the first time that a case had ever been won against him. His license was revoked and the colored girls who patronized him have been befriended by the Association for the Protection of Negro Women, and friends found for those who were in need, and many of them placed in friendly touch with reputable agencies.

The investigation of New York lodging houses for women is continued this year by Miss Zaida E. Udell.

Miss Rosa Fried, who made the investigation of immigrant women in Philadelphia for the Inter-Municipal Research Committee, is in charge of a bureau of information and friendly visiting for newly-arrived immigrant girls, under the auspices of the committee. The headquarters are at 40 Stuyvesant Street.

The Inter-Municipal Research Committee has supplemented its department, "The Housewife and Her Helper," in the *Ladies' Home Journal,* by a similar department, "The Woman Who Does Her Own Work," running in alternate numbers. The object of the department is to approach the domestic problem from another point of view, and enable women to solve the problem by dispensing more or less with the services of a houseworker.

Notes on the Domestic Problem

The Sinclair Colony at Englewood, N. J., is an interesting experiment in solving the domestic problem through Co-operative Housekeeping. The secretary reports that four educated persons have been secured as cook, housecleaner, laundress, and children's nurse; and apparently there are to be more applications for domestic positions than the Colony can fill. (Authentic.)

The strongest union in the city is said to be the Cooks' Union of the East Side. It was organized last spring by Mrs. Anna Bach, with the support of the Woman's Trade Union League, for the purpose of securing decent working conditions and a fairer wage for restaurant cooks. It has an employment bureau of its own, and headquarters in the Florence Building. (Authentic.)

A South Carolina man who came North with the intention of securing a number of white maids to take the place of the incompetent and unsatisfactory Negro help in his city, found a discouraging dearth of white girls willing to enter domestic employment. He hoped to engage Scandinavians or Germans, and found in New York only two Scandinavian girls willing to go South with him, and those two most undesirable specimens. An attempt to engage employees among restaurant waitresses was no more successful. Most of the women he interviewed were attractive and desirable, but they had fallen under the spell of New York City and preferred to live here on lower wages rather than go South. (Authentic.)

The suburban domestic problem is more serious than ever. A general houseworker in a nearby New Jersey town is said to have refused a place at $35 a month, because there were four in the family, and she "did not care to work in large families." (Unverified.)

A recent experiment in the U. S. Army is the organizing of cooking classes among the enlisted men, with the object of making sure of competent cooks and bakers in each company and troop. Money prizes are offered for excellence in the work, and State dinners are occasionally given to the officers by graduates of the course. (Unverified.)

The Consumers' League

of the City of New York

Room 617, 105 East 22d Street

Mrs. Frederick Nathan, *President*

Miss Helen Phelps Stokes, *1st Vice-President.*
Mrs. Hugh Munroe Dewees, *2d Vice-President.*
Miss Alice H. Day, *Treasurer.*
Mrs. Christopher Wyatt, *Recording Secretary.*
Mrs. Geo. K. B. Wade, *Corresponding Secretary.*
Miss Pauline Goldmark, *Executive Secretary.*

The Christmas season has begun for thousands of factory girls in New York State. Many weeks before the holidays the factories work "overtime," turning out articles for the Chritmas trade. Factory inspectors and others in touch with factory conditions have long been alive to the fact that in these months there is open violation of the New York law and women and young girls are kept working thirteen and fourteen hours a day.

But no such wholesale estimate of the situation has been secured as that embodied in a report of an investigation in New York City, by Miss Mary Van Kleeck, carried on under the College Settlements Association, aided by the Association of Neighborhood Workers, the Consumers' League, the Women's Trade Union League, Working Girls' Clubs and other organizations of a similar sort.

Some of the facts unearthed are little short of the sensational in their arraignment of industrial abuses. For example, there is the theatrical dressmaker, who, last January, kept girls at work from eight in the morning until half-past two the next morning in her shop just off Broadway. To quote three cases from the report, illustrative of many others:

"Paper boxes are an important part of the Christmas trade. In a paper-box factory in New York City a girl operates the cutting machine. To keep one's hand clear of the stroke of the knife requires constant watchfulness, yet no protection is provided. The guard, which was invented to prevent accidents, limits the output by one-half, and the girl would be discharged if she used it. In rush seasons this girl and all the others in the factory (they number three or four hundred) work from 7:45 A. M. until eight at night with a half hour for lunch and no time for supper. On Saturday they stop at 4:30 in order that the cheapest girls (who earn $2.50 a week) may have time to clean the machinery. They frequently work on Sunday, making a total of more than seventy hours in a week. To the question 'Would you be discharged if you refused to work overtime?' the answer was 'Yes.'

"A candy factory works from 7:15 A. M. until 7:45 P. M., with one-half hour for dinner and no time for supper—twelve hours in a day, five days in the week. On Saturday, they work until 6:45 P. M.—eleven hours; seventy-one hours in the week.

"In a cigar factory the women work from 7 A. M. until 7 P. M., and on Saturday until 5 P. M. The workers live in the neighborhood. Promptly at 12 they rush from the factory for dinner, returning to work after fifteen minutes or less. They are piece-workers, and they must lose no time or their wages will be very small. Their working weeks in the season preceding Christmas are nearly seventy hours long."

While the factories are "speeding up" in every department this autumn, and the fifty factory inspectors are trying to watch 78,000 factories in the State, the Supreme Court of New York in the Appellate Division is this month about to decide whether New York State has a right to restrict the hours of women's work in factories. Besides forbidding a working week longer than sixty hours, New York State prohibits the employment of women between the hours of nine at night and six in the morning. If the judges should hold this latter provision unconstitutional, the "bosses" in the factories might legally keep their women employes at work all day and all night, any hours not exceeding sixty in a week. That theatrical dressmaker who, last winter, kept her girls at work for over eighteen consecutive hours, would then be within the law.

The courts of several States have given decisions on this subject. Illinois decided that such laws violate freedom of contract. But Massachusetts, Nebraska, Washington and Oregon, and the Supreme Court of the United States have declared that freedom of contract is not violated when the State extends legal protection where (by reason of economic inequality) the contract is not free, or where public health and public morals demand legislative restriction. In her article in the October issue of "Charities and The Commons," Miss Van Kleeck says:

"It is not true that factory women are free to contract. When one side can say to the other, 'Work on these terms or lose your job,' 'Work or starve,' the contract is not free.

"If the public demands it New York State will frame wise laws for the protection of women workers. The decision of the court will be the foundation. If adverse, it will turn far back the progress of industrial betterment at the very season of the year when legal protection is most needed."

The pending decision of the New York Supreme Court (set down in the calendar of the Appellate Division for November 7th) is, therefore, awaited with keenest interest.

The Consumers' League urges you to begin your Christmas Shopping in the month of November in order to lessen the crowding of stores during December and the consequent hardships of all employes engaged in the holiday trade.

Financial Appeal

To the Members of the Woman's Municipal League:

The Woman's Municipal League, since its founding by Mrs. Josephine Shaw Lowell, has sought to inculcate in the women of New York a deeper and more dynamic sense of their citizenship and of its duties.

It no longer successfully—and smugly—can be said that woman's duty stops at her own doorstep. It does not stop until it has made her influence for good felt as a power in every administrative department of New York City.

To give collective power to this individual desire for cleaner streets, better sanitation and purer administrative conditions in all departments of the municipality is the object of the Woman's Municipal League.

Three lines of effort are pursued:

First—The public monthly meetings at the new headquarters, 19 East Twenty-sixth Street. Every meeting is addressed by an authority on some subject pertinent to municipal administration. This familiarizes women with the functions and duties of the various city departments; so that practically it makes a woman better able to co-operate with them by informing her, not only of their work and needs, but of her own and others' rights and the best way to secure and maintain them. A woman will hesitate much less to make an appeal for the removal of obstructions on fire escapes when she has heard the Fire Commissioner recite the dangers of such obstructions and of his ample powers to remove them upon notification of their existence. And this holds true of every other department.

Second—Committees of members to co-operate with the various city departments to secure needed reform.

Third—Groups of suburban women are interested in local improvement. This work we consider especially effective, as it brings woman closely and immediately in touch with her community. The woman who has been the means of having a dangerous gully properly bridged and fenced, or of having lamps placed on a street notoriously dangerous after dark, feels that she is indeed part and parcel of her town; and the community benefits by her civic feeling.

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THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

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Fifth Annual Report

Consumers' League Section

December, 1906

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. V. DECEMBER, 1906 No. 5

The regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, December 13, at 11 a.m., at the new Headquarters of the League, 19 East 26th Street.

MISS KELLOR and MISS FRIED of the Inter-Municipal Research Committee will speak on the work of their Department.

JOSEPHINE REDDING, *Secretary.*

OFFICERS

President	Mrs. Aldrich
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Treasurer	Miss Catharine S. Leverich
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Mrs. Gordon Wendell, *Murray Hill*

All Communications should be sent to THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE, *19 East 26th Street*

Extracts from President's Annual Report.

This is our first annual meeting held under our own roof and in our own Assembly Rooms. We shall no longer be indebted to the City Club for a monthly abiding place, and the office is no longer too small for the needs of the members. It has always seemed strange that New York, unlike many third-class cities, possesses no building where the various civic and philanthropic undertakings by its women can be unified. The many demands by other organizations for our Assembly Rooms seem to indicate that such fellowship is desired. Let us hope that an interchange of interest will make our hospitality of increasing scope.

Our hitherto cramped quarters almost limited our educational work to our various committees and local centers. The office attendance, it is true, has almost doubled each year, and the briefest survey of our bulletin board and maps has generally conveyed interesting information concerning city departments to all newcomers. Now, there is no reason why the members should not arrange days and hours on which any number of them can be given a clear outline of the Executive, and be shown the history of our municipality as reported in the press and periodicals for the past four years. Very encouraging is it to find that strangers or individuals applying for information concerning city departments have been referred to our office by so great an authority as Dr. Devine.

While the League has not been so fortunate as to possess a Secretary among its officers during the last year, the Bulletin has increased as the demand for it shows. It goes to twenty-six States and Territories, and has been asked for as a model by three other societies, one of which now sends us its own publication on "exchange." Extra copies are asked for by the editors of municipal journals and for circulation. One lady writes that the President of a village brought the Bulletin before the Board of Trade where it was received with great interest and proved helpful in aiding to arouse an interest in the disposal of garbage. It is undoubtedly this widening circulation which enables us to provide the League with such important monthly addresses at our monthly meetings, and these in turn are quite as important to the Bulletin as the reports of our committees. I feel that a vote of thanks is due to the Publication Committee, which has edited during this hot summer the last five numbers. The members of this committee have been indefatigable in meeting together while the majority of our membership were absent from the city and, like all volunteer workers, their reward must be in their own realization of this public spirit.

We have always had before us what is perhaps the most difficult ideal in civic work, and that is the non-duplication of machinery. How delightful, therefore, has it been to have the Consumers' League print one section of the Bulletin during the last year and to find that able organization is anxious to continue as our co-editor.

The Household Research Department of the Woman's Municipal League has decided not to publish a separate Bulletin, which brings to our pages a long story of the multifarious information of conditions under which women are working in households not their own.

Time would fail me if I undertook to review the progress municipal reform organization has brought to us in our exchanges, but I must at least remind you that in spite of the curious laws governing the District of Columbia, better conditions have been obtained for the children in our National Capital along the lines of compulsory education, a higher age limit for the employment of minors and in the establishment of a Children's Bureau. In this progress the women took the initiative, finding naturally that Congressmen and Senators sent from

districts where municipal reform has been agitated, were most interested in Washington's welfare. This example of the influence which individual struggles bring to bear when united in the National Capital is an excellent illustration of what is going on in our own endeavor to increase our membership and efficiency. It is the people who have already worked for the public good, whether it be in church, school, or in social centers, who understand the importance of such organizations as ours. It is not the amount of time which they are able to spend in working for us which constitutes their importance as members, so much as the fact that we, who have chosen to work in this channel, represent them, and that they look to us for accurate, timely and effective work in opposing what is evil and in supporting what is good.

Report of the Washington Heights Local Improvement Branch.

This Branch was re-organized in April, 1906, there having been no meetings or active work of any kind done in several years.

Officers were elected as follows: Mrs. James Cowen Meyers, Chairman; Mrs. I. L. Carbinell, Secretary; Mrs. Walter Watkins, Treasurer.

Our main effort has been to gather together the old members and at the same time recruit new ones. Having held but five meetings, and the summer intervening, our work has not been very extensive. We have, however, devoted our attention to various minor local improvements which have been the subject of monthly reports. As to most of these, we can simply report progress, with the hope that soon we may be able to announce their accomplishment.

A division of the Washington Heights Branch of the League was organized in June with Miss Frances S. Hobbie as Chairman and a membership of nine. During the first few months of its existence it has already been able to make an impression on the neighborhood. It was instrumental in having street lamps placed on two street corners and in causing the clearing of the sidewalks and roads of noxious weeds by the Bureau of Highways.

It took up the matter of the proper removal of garbage and of the placing of another letter-box without apparent success, but was able to obtain its desires in the matter of the placing of a rubbish receptacle and the clearing of the streets of papers and rubbish.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN H. MEYERS,

Chairman.

Report of the Research Department.

The work of the Research Department of the Woman's Municipal League has fallen quite naturally into the following sub-divisions:

1. The continuance of the Employment Agency Investigations has finished one most important piece of work. It has now a complete investigation of the Agencies in the city of Brooklyn, some one hundred and thirty in number. This work was done by Mrs. Dent, and was paid for by the Prospect Branch of the Woman's Municipal League. The result of the investigation showed primarily that the Brooklyn Agencies were not the subject of much inspection in the hands of the Department of Licenses, and that no effort was spent by that Department in seeing that persons doing Employment Agency business in the city of Brooklyn should become licensed. This office had felt that a certain amount

of time should be allowed the new Commissioner of Licenses and his Deputy for getting their office into working shape. I used the term "working" advisedly and not in the light of my subsequent knowledge. Such allowance of time was duly made, and then upon the continuance of complaint of the same violation, some so ordinary that a monthly inspection (not to mention the necessary bi-monthly one) would have cured them, this office began a systematic investigation of that Department and its heads. We found a state much worse then we imagined; there were, for example, men drawing salaries of $1,500 a year, who worked but eight hours a week. In addition to this the fact has become evident that the Department's annual report is based upon false statements, and that so far as the individual expense account of the inspector is concerned a neat and careful padding must follow as a matter of course.

The Information Bureau of this organization has continued its regular routine work and has varied it with only one innovation, the insertion of an advertisement as follows:

"The Research Department of the Woman's Municipal League has on file at their office, 19 East Twenty-sixth Street, a list of all the reputable employment agencies in New York City, classified according to position. This list will be furnished free of charge to anyone looking for a position or employing help. Telephone, 1386 Madison."

Which, put in one New York paper on Sunday, brought as many as twenty-seven replies the next day.

Our office has brought fewer complaints than usual, due to the fact that attention was directed to the condition of affairs in the Bureau of Licenses, which were outrageous, as shown by the investigation of its men. We must say, however, that so far as the co-operation of the Commissioner was concerned we were able to secure the refusal of a license for one of the most notorious of the colored agents, and that he has been driven out of business in New York State. With regret we add that the man now intends to go to South Orange, N. J., to continue his work.

The Immigration Department is under the direct charge of Miss Fried, who will submit her own report. The investigation of Lodging Houses and Laundries is to continue, and Miss Udell is to be the investigator who will do this work. The unremitting investigation of Employment Agencies is going on under Mr. Bernstein.

Report of Health Committee.

This Committee began its meetings in November, 1905, and continued them into May, 1906. At the suggestion of the President of the League, Miss Gertrude Barnum, Secretary of the Woman's Trade Union League, was asked to confer with the Health Committee on the subject of laundries.

As the W. T. U. L. desired to investigate laundries from the standpoint of hours and wages it seemed most desirable that the two organizations should co-operate and thus give the whole investigation a very broad scope, but after several preliminary meetings this plan had to be given up, as the W. T. U. L. found itself not in a position to meet the necessary expenses of the work outside its own Society, and at the same time it was unwilling to investigate the laundries with a view to the conditions touching health.

After much difficulty the Committee found a very satisfactory investigator in Mrs. A. C. Pollock, who worked for four months, visiting laundries in various parts of Greater New York, and she has sent in the report of her work, which I now present.

Mr. Sherman, Commissioner of Labor, was visited several times by members

of the Committee; he seemed really interested and gave some practical advice he suggested that if the Committee would frame a paragraph such as they would like to have added to the existing very inadequate law as to laundries he would be glad to add such paragraph to a bill he was about to present to the Legislature and would do his part toward getting it passed.

The Committee then conferred with the Legislative Committee of the League explaining just what they desired said in this paragraph and also made an appointment for the Legislative Committee to meet Mr. Sherman at Albany and talk the paragraph over. In spite of all these efforts on the part of the Health Committee no satisfactory paragraph was ever produced and the suggested meeting never occurred, and therefore the time passed when such business could be attended to at that session of the Legislature.

The Committee again visited Mr. Sherman, and he suggested that they draw up a bill stating the conditions and the needs for improvements in the laundries, and proposed that they present such a bill this year. Mr. Sherman expressed himself as alive to the necessity for such a bill and seemed ready to help it along in any way in his power.

Miss Kinne, of the Health Committee, has collected a very good bibliography of laundries.

The Committee raised, by the help of some of the Local Improvement Districts and through members of the League, $216; $204 was paid to Mrs. Pollock, $11 for clerical work and $1 is at present in the treasury.

The Committee desires to recommend that this report of Mrs. Pollock's investigation be printed in full and sent to all members of the League, and that at the same time the essential facts of the report be given to the newspapers that the public interest may if possible be aroused.

Yours respectfully,

MARGARET P. STRONG.

Fifth Annual Report of the Committee on Free Ice-Water Fountains.

Four fountains were placed this season in the following localities: College Settlement, 95 Rivington Street; Bowery Mission, 55 Bowery; Newsboys' Lodging House, 14 New Chambers Street; Children's Aid School, Eleventh Avenue and Fifty-third Street.

Two of these fountains were entirely new, two were removed from other sites, but the expense of reinstalling them is more than half the cost of a new fountain. We are obliged to face this problem in our work, owing to the impossibility of always finding permanent places in the needy districts of the city. For example, one of the fountains mentioned above, and admirably located at the Seaman's Mission at 34 Pike Street, had to be removed as the Mission there was abandoned and the building sold. This fountain we have placed in an even more congested part of the city, at the Newsboys' Lodging House at 14 New Chambers Street, and Mrs. William E. Dodge, the donor of the fountain, generously paid for the removal and continued to furnish the ice.

Since the beginning of our work, we have never had a season when the usefulness of the fountains was more clearly demonstrated. As the Superintendent of one institution wrote me: "It has been a summer of furnace heat combined with Russian moisture." With this trying weather, and the price of ice being practically prohibitive for the poor, the fountains were patronized as never before, quantities of water being carried in pitchers to the homes. A letter just

received about a fountain on the lower East Side brings out this state of affairs, and I imagine justly censures the Ice Trust. Mr. Bruchlow writes:

HOPE CHAPEL, 339 EAST FOURTH STREET,
October 26, 1906.

MRS. T. M. DILLINGHAM:

DEAR MADAM:—In accordance with your request, I would hereby inform you that our ice-water fountain was flowing uninterruptedly from July 1st to October 1st, 1906. The amount of ice consumed was 26,825 pounds, at an expense of $94.27—an unnecessary libation to the un-American fetish, the Ice Trust, which robbed many poor people of the comfort of having ice in their homes, causing many poor people to send their children with a pitcher to the fountain to get cool water for the family. Often the drain was so great that even at 11 P. M., with the box packed with ice, the water was warm instead of cool.

Yours respectfully,
A. BRUCHLOS.

I shall read a few other messages received during the summer:

"The fountain has been a great blessing to many a one. As my room was near the fountain, it was a common thing to note that people were using it, not only during the day, but all hours of the night. In behalf of the people of this section, I thank you for your kindness in the matter."—E. L. Fox, People's Home Church.

From the Bowery Mission comes this testimony: "It is a wonderful blessing to many thousands each day. They are visiting it in throngs and are greatly refreshed thereby. May God richly bless you for your thoughtful work in behalf of these poor fellows."

One of the workers of the College Settlement has this to say: "It (the fountain) has been used daily by hundreds of children and adults—by many hundreds during the very warm weather. The benefit the fountain confers on the neighborhood is tremendous; it is impossible to say how many men drink the ice water instead of going to the saloon two doors away, or how many children drink it instead of the cheap colored drinks sold from pushcarts. The fountain is most popular, being in constant use from early morning until late at night, and is certainly meeting a need of the neighborhood."

The head-worker, Miss Williams, who was away part of the summer, writes: "I am so glad that you could have put it in for us this year, for the weather has been especially trying and it must have been a great blessing to our neighborhood. I know I have always seen a crowd about it when I have been in the city."

Jerry McAuley Mission testifies: "Ice was very scarce down here the first part of September, but we tried to get it on very hot days. The fountain was a great boon to those who live in this locality. Sometimes there was a line of children and adults awaiting their turn with pitchers and cans for the family use, and I believe in a good many cases it was used instead of beer."

Before closing with the Treasurer's Report I should like to give a few words on the subject from a larger point of view. Very recently a Settlement House which I knew intimately, found the character of part of its work changed through the opening of a large city playground for the children in the immediate neighborhood. This was a change for the better, as work for the public welfare is, when feasible, more fittingly performed by the city than by private charity. Thus in the beginning did the Woman's Municipal League hope that eventually our city might provide for the people drinking water of a palatable temperature (for I would remind you that our fountains do not furnish ice

water, but only water cooled through pipes in contact with ice). In view, however, of the expense and the large saloon vote, I for one, believe that this public benefit will be among the last undertaken by the model city of our dreams. The only rival we are likely to have, and one we would welcome, would be the extension of the penny-slot machine widely used in England, and found in a very few places in our city. Besides furnishing the cup of cold water, I am told (for I have never seen one) that the glass is washed automatically. We therefore beg for a continuation of your support and interest, and plead for other members of the League outside of our small committee to interest their friends to give a fountain with maintenance for the season of 1907.

One of the year's fountains was the result of the labors of some young people belonging to the Junior Section of the Jewish Council for Women, who have also pledged themselves to raise the annual sum for its maintenance.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Balance from 1905	$269.70
Received 1906	727.35
Total	$997.05
Paid for fountains, ice and repairs	767.77
Balance in Treasury	$229.28

In addition to the sums received by this Committee, it must be remembered that donors of fountains directly furnish funds for ice and repairs amounting to some $400 each summer, and nearly as much is expended by institutions which maintain the fountains given by us, funds which do not pass through our hands but which would make our financial showing much more imposing.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRIET A. DILLINGHAM,
Chairman.

Report of the House Committee.

The Woman's Municipal League, finding it necessary to secure larger quarters for its activities, moved from 31 Union Square to 19 East Twenty-sixth Street in April, 1905.

After removal it was decided that a House Committee was desirable and accordingly the Chairman of the League called a number of ladies together and formed such a committee. From their number Miss Van Amringe was appointed chairman.

Immediately the House Committee sought financial ways and means to carry on its work, and to this end, on May 11, a Tea was given, 25 cents being charged for each cup. The Tea was a success, about one hundred persons attending.

With the proceeds the Committee bought dishes for the League, paid for the staining of the floors, and for a few other necessary improvements.

To make the Assembly Rooms more attractive and more rentable for meetings, etc., it was found necessary to buy rugs and a piano, these being purchased on the installment plan. An appeal to the district organizations and to the members generally to assist in paying off this necessary indebtedness has recently been issued by the Chairman of the House Committee. Several contributions have up to this time been received in money and furnishings.

At present the two upper floors of the house are sublet to and are occupied by the Woman's University Club; the second floor by the Household Research Committee and the basement by the Gift Shop Tea Room. The parlor floor is reserved for the League itself. The details of the sub-leases and the expenditures and receipts are all referred to in the Treasurer's report.

When the House Committee first took charge, the cellar was full of rubbish and the whole house in a very dirty condition. The necessary cleaning up was done under the direction of the House Committee. The top two floors were remodelled by the League to suit the W. U. C. and the basement remodelled by the present tenant. The condition of the house now speaks for itself.

At first a woman was employed to keep the house in order, but she has been succeeded by a colored man, who has been very successful in preserving cleanliness.

The business negotiations with sub-tenants have all been in charge of Miss Helen Arthur. The Chairman of the House Committee is in almost daily attendance at the house.

As it is the earnest desire of the Directors of the League that the rooms be freely used by the members, it is hoped that every member will help to contribute to make the rooms more attractive.

The suggestion has been made that a Tea be given each month by some one of the branches of the League. The Riverside Branch promptly asked for November, and December is spoken for by another branch. The Committee would like to hear from other districts as soon as possible so that days desired may be reserved.

The House Committee desires to emphasize the fact that the Assembly Rooms are rentable for meetings, lectures, etc—mornings, afternoons or evenings —and it is hoped the League members will advertise this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

IDA S. COHEN.

Report of the Aldermanic Committee.

The Aldermanic Committee is happy to announce that the Bureau of Civic Betterment has invited us to co-operate with it in having a representative at all meetings of the Board of Aldermen, Rapid Transit Commission and Board of Estimate and Apportionment. We were the first organization to suggest following the meetings of these bodies, although many societies and individuals have all Assembly and Senate bills at once reported to them. This invitation was accepted and the Central Committee suggested that all meetings of special interest to the League, such as Park hearings, etc., be reported early to us, so that we may notify our sister committees who might wish to attend.

The Chairman of the Aldermanic Committee attended a meeting of the National Municipal League at Atlantic City, N. J., on April 25-27, and proposed that members should suggest to their Congressmen that they take a lively interest in bills relating to the City of Washington, especially those relating to schools. This met with enthusiastic approval.

Secretary Bonaparte, President of the National Municipal League, suggested that your Aldermanic Chairman be made Chairman of a Woman's Auxiliary of the National League. Final arrangements have not yet been completed at this date, as Secretary Woodruff of the League has been unable to arrange a meeting to discuss details.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN VAN C. DE PEYSTER,
Chairman Aldermanic Committee.

Report of the Morrisania Local Improvement District Branch.

We take special pride in beginning the annual report of the Morrisania Local Improvement District Branch with an account of the work done by our members in Kingsbridge. All winter and summer the women have planned and worked for a park in Kingsbridge, three acres in extent and including within its area the Colonial Kingsbridge, the spot where Washington's men were able to withstand the victorious invaders. The Mayor, Commissioner Darlington and Park Commissioner Walgrove visited in turn this vicinity and all agreed on the necessity of a park in this locality. The men of Kingsbridge are also endeavoring to secure appropriations for it, and Alderman Meyers, leader of the Board of Aldermen, has promised us to support it. Mrs. Todd, who is our Chairman in Kingsbridge and the moving spirit in this agitation, drew maps and procured photographs of the locality at the Park Commissioners' request. She has, however, asked me not to say anything further about the park, as the situation is at present in a delicate condition and she does not wish her efforts spoiled by a premature publicity.

The building of a lake south of the Dutch Garden has always been one of the aims of the Kingsbridge Division. The idea was first put to Park Commissioner Eustis four years ago, and drawings were made by him. A copy of these drawings was presented to us, and we have taken them to each successive Park Commission (five in all) since that date. We presented them to Commissioner Walgrove, McClellan's appointee, and were much encouraged to hear that he had asked for an appropriation of $120,000 to do this work and that he obtained $70,000. The lake will terminate at 245th Street, will drain into the Broadway sewer, and will change a mosquito breeding swamp into a beautiful and healthful place of recreation. Mrs. Todd has also urged upon the Park Department to deepen and widen Tibbits' Brook and build along its sides a roadway with shade trees. This the property owners are also urging. At present, Tibbits' Brook is being used as a house drain by quite a section of Kingsbridge; so Mrs. Todd has taken pains to draw to the attention of the Board of Health that this section could drain into the now completed Broadway sewer and the change would be beneficial to the health of Kingsbridge. This matter the Health Board promised to take up as soon as possible. The Health Board not only promised, but immediately attended to complaints made by our members of an overflowing privy on Church Street, which had flooded with its contents the entire road. A well-attended and enthusiastic tea was held in the beginning of the season, which was the means of securing several new members.

Mrs. Todd proposes this year to do some work of her own among the poor in Kingsbridge, and proposes in connection with this to organize sub-committees of the League among the poor women and negresses. We think it a very commendable bit of work to introduce our principles among these people, and we wish her all success.

In Church Street boardwalks have been laid by the city at this Division's request, and a dangerous hole on another street has been filled in and flagged over.

Mrs. Todd was asked by a member of Inwood to see what could be done to compel the collection of garbage on Bolton Road, Inwood. On a certain Monday she wrote to Commissioner Woodbury, stating her grievance. On a Thursday, the foreman whose duty it had been to attend to the matter appeared at her home in a humble frame of mind and told her that he had received a very caustic note from the Commissioner in regard to the removal of garbage from Bolton Road and hoped that in the future she would write directly to him and not to the

Commissioner, promising that all her wishes would receive immediate attention. The ashes are now regularly removed.

Another matter which was of great interest to us and illustrates equally well the advantage of appealing directly to headquarters, was Mrs. Campbell's effort to make the Metropolitan Railroad Company build a shelter at the end of the Broadway trolley line. Mrs. Campbell, who is Secretary of the Kingsbridge Division, won the day by her splendid perseverance. She found that the law requires railroad companies to put up shelters at the terminals of their lines, and she wrote to the Metropolitan Company requesting the placing of such a shelter at Kingsbridge. The company promptly replied that they would do so. Months elapsed and nothing was done. Mrs. Campbell made another appeal to the Company, with the same result. She then took the matter to the State Railroad Commission, reminding them of the law and stating that the Metropolitan Railroad Company had not complied with it in regard to their terminus at Kingsbridge. A few weeks later the Railroad Commission sent Mrs. Campbell the complete correspondence which the Commission had held with the Company, and the shelter was placed within a few days.

Perhaps some of you will remember that among other matters reported at last winter's monthly meetings of the League as of interest to the Morrisania Branch, we spoke of the filling of Broadway with garbage. I think we are most to be congratulated on this bit of work, and for the benefit of those who were not present last winter I should like to say a few words in regard to it. Broadway has for the past six years been in a state of chaos, a trunk sewer having been built and the avenue having been raised ten feet above its original grade. In the process of raising the avenue, dumping scows were towed to Kingsbridge and the fill from these was placed on the avenue. What this fill consisted of became a subject of inquiry by the entire neighborhood. The stench from it was intolerable, and our members discovered that it was composed mostly of garbage. They telephoned Commissioner Darlington, who sent up an inspector. The inspector ordered the bad fill returned as far as possible and only clean fill used. This was done as long as the inspector remained in the locality, but as soon as he left the bad fill was again dumped on the avenue. However, our League members were vigilant, and the telephone again informed Commissioner Darlington of the outrage. Thereupon the inspector was returned to Kingsbridge with orders to remain, and no more garbage was dumped.

Tremont.—The Tremont Division began its work this year with a new Chairman and Secretary. Owing to the widespread prejudice against the League's campaign work, a strong sentiment prevailed in this Division that more efficient work could be done if an entirely separate village improvement society were organized. I advised, however, that the Division retain the same position in the League for the present, and this was done. The plans of work for this Division consisted of the following: the erection of window boxes; the abatement of the smoke nuisance; the study of the Tenement and Criminal Laws; and the attempt to compel the officials to keep the elevated and subway steps clean. Garbage and ashes were collected in Fordham at the Tremont Division's request, and the foreman there made the same request to our Secretary that was made by another foreman in Kingsbridge, which was that complaints be sent directly to him and not to the Commissioner, and promised that all our communications would have immediate attention. Letters directed to Health Commissioner Darlington in regard to the filthy condition of elevated and subway steps in the Bronx were promptly acknowledged, and the ordinance in regard to them equally promptly enforced; so that now we have the benefit of cleaner steps and stations than any other portion of the city. We also commended the Commissioner for his attitude towards expectoration, hoping that our commendation would help a little towards the effective continuation of this crusade. As to the parks in Tremont,

the Division induced Commissioner Walgrove to correct eight or nine minor matters in regard to the lawns and more especially the trees of the smaller parks around Tremont. The Municipal Buildings fountain was put in order at our request, and the water of our own fountain turned on. Good situations for a new fountain are being sought, and permission was obtained to place one in the waiting room of the Union Railroad at 138th Street.

Mrs. Fisk visited the tenement house which was reported by an anonymous writer to our Central Committee as being particularly unsanitary, and found that all modern plumbing had been placed in the building. We do not know whether this change was due to our efforts or not. We had appealed to both Tenement and Health Departments the year before to correct the abuses, and had given up in despair. The next year the improvements were made. Apparently we must not despair too soon. Mrs. Fisk organized two very successful meetings in a large hall in Bedford Park, where several new members were enrolled. She is to confine her energies this winter to the region of the Bronx known as Woodstock, and our Tremont Division will lapse into that of Woodstock.

The Highbridge Division has also disbanded for the same reason that had caused the loss of the Tremont Division—that of prejudice against the League's campaign work, and also for the reason that there has grown among the inhabitants of that neighborhood a dislike for the family of our Chairman. A new Division, however, has been formed at Inwood with very capable and energetic members, and there are good prospects for a new Division at Bedford Park.

University Heights.—A new Division was also formed at University Heights, with Mrs. John Martin as Chairman and Mrs. George V. Mullan as Secretary. Committees were formed and by-laws adopted, and discussions were held on the project of maintaining and improving the Aqueduct Park grounds as a pedestrians' parkway and on the advisability of procuring a six-cent fare on every third car on the Jerome Avenue line. These matters were to be thoroughly looked into before any action was taken. The necessity of making any recommendation to the Railroad Company in regard to higher fares, however, has been done away with, as a new trolley line has been built which is not overcrowded. The Division will, I trust, begin good work now, this being its second winter. The Executive Committee of this Branch, which, as already explained, consists of the Chairman and Secretary of the various divisions and which exists for the purpose of the mutual understanding and co-operation of these divisions, held six regular meetings and will hold its annual meeting on Monday next. It has studied and endorsed several bills which have come before the Legislature in the past winter, and which have affected the welfare and beauty of the Bronx. Chief of these are the bills purporting to eliminate the evils of the present road commissions, and our support was given to the Dunn bill which was passed. Other bills affecting the pollution of the Bronx River and the placing of water meters were studied with a good deal of interest.

We offered financial assistance to the Civic League of the Bronx, which was organized to investigate alleged frauds in the Borough President's office, and felt considerably chagrined that we could not assist with evidence as well as with money.

The Executive Committee of this Branch has only one standing committee—that on Parks, whose object is investigation. It recommended this year the abolition of stagnant pools on Moshulu Parkway and the erection of comfort stations at intersections of important avenues.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia L. D. Longfellow,
Chairman.

Report of Kip's Bay Local Improvement District.

The Kip's Bay Local Improvement District Committee of the Woman's Municipal League was organized January 11, 1906. The meeting was called by Mrs. Rosalie Loew Whitney and Mrs. Anna M. Jackson. It was held at the Friend's Meeting House, Sixteenth Street and Stuyvesant Square, and officers were elected as follows: Mrs. J. Noble Hayes, Chairman; Mrs. Anna M. Jackson, Vice-Chairman; Mrs. S. M. Burrows, Secretary; Mrs. Hoag, Treasurer.

An Executive Committee was elected of the four officers and five other members, viz: Mrs. Taft, Mrs. Doubleday, Mrs. Lorillard Spencer, Mrs. Rosalie Loew Whitney, and Miss Edith Kendall. By-laws were adopted and work planned for the year. The following Committees were appointed: (1) On Parks, (2) on Station Houses, (3) on Excise, (4) on Streets, (5) on Street Cars, (6) on Kinetescopes, (7) on Local History, (8) on Intemperance and Kindred Evils.

Meetings of the whole Committee or of the Executive Committee were held almost every week for about three months. Many meetings were held later, but the work was necessarily sporadic owing to the necessity of awaiting the convenience of the public officials before whom the Committees were to appear.

The work accomplished was as follows:

The Committees on Excise, Streets, Street Cars, met from time to time during the winter, with satisfactory results, though they are not able to be formulated.

The Committee on Local History after much investigation prepared an article endeavoring to cover the history, present status and present needs of the District. This article was published in the April issue of the Bulletin of the Women's Municipal League. It was an effort to create in the inhabitants of Kip's Bay District a feeling of personal responsibility such as actuated the old-fashioned Village Improvement Society in small centers of population. Students of city betterment largely agree that no better plan has been devised to meet the needs of cities.

The Committee on Kinetescopes voted to work in conjunction with the Philanthropic Committee of the New York Monthly Meeting of Friends to suppress deleterious exhibitions of penny-in-the-slot machines. The work was considered most important from a sanitary and ophthalmic point of view as well as from the moral standpoint. Personal investigation of machines and pictures was made in various parts of the city, and divers evils were corrected.

The Committee on Intemperance and Kindred Evils found an unusually large number of saloons in the neighborhood, which were often found to be of a worse character than is usual. One saloon in particular was reported as harboring a large number of young people between 14 and 16 years of age in the evenings. The co-operation of one or two reliable shops in the neighborhood was asked to secure information.

The Committee on Station Houses, under the leadership of Mrs. Theo. Taft, met frequently and did most effective work. Many station houses were inspected, and a full report of the horrors found was sent to the Mayor, Borough President, Police Committee and Committee of Health. Consultation was held with ex-Magistrate Ommen. The Committee waited upon Mayor McClellan, who received them, and seemed favorably disposed toward the proposed improvements. Letters were received from all four of these officers, assuring the Committee of the approval and co-operation of these Departments in the matter of ameliorating of the insalutary condition of the station houses.

The Police Commissioner avowed that such reports as the one submitted were found to be of great assistance. He has since reported that the Board of Aldermen has passed the appropriation for repairs to station houses.

This report was printed in the New York *Evening Post, New York Times,* and the Tammany paper. The Chief wrote asking for it for publication.

The report is appended.

The Committee on Parks: It was agreed that the Executive Committee should act as the Park Committee. Three steps were considered most necessary. (1) The finishing and equipping of the present St. Gabriel's Park; benches should be provided; grass, shrubs and trees should be planted; complete equipment of outdoor gymnasium and playgrounds should be established. (2) Preventing the erection of the proposed Bath building on any portion of the land devoted to St. Gabriel's Park. (3) Inducing the city to obtain possession of the property adjoining the present St. Gabriel's Park, that situate between it and the East River, Thirty-fifth to Thirty-sixth Streets, to be used as a continuation of that park. Meetings of other organizations were called to secure co-operation on this subject. The City Club, Neighborhood Club, Civic Club, East Side Republican Club, Epiphany Church, St. Gabriel's Church and others were among these. A large evening meeting was arranged to be held at Civic Club, calling together all interested organizations, but later it was deemed inexpedient to give much publicity to the project, and the meeting was given up.

It was considered wiser to try and secure the extension quietly, so as to avoid possible undue opposition from property owners. A personal call was made upon the Commissioner of Parks, and a written memorial was presented to him requesting him to take the necessary action to acquire the land for the extension of St. Gabriel's Park. This was signed by the Chairman and other members, also by residents of the district. A similar petition was presented to the Local Board. Many hearings were held before the Local Improvement Board and large delegations were present with the result that the petition passed the Local Board and was duly recommended by it to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. The erection of the bath building on the park land has been prevented.

The present St. Gabriel's Park is now thoroughly finished and equipped and the playgrounds have been opened for the past month. This land had lain for two or three years unfinished, after the tenements had been torn down. Gymnasium apparatus is in order and the children are happy. There are two large enclosures for play, one for boys and one for girls. There are plenty of swings, see-saws, slides, sand piles, tether poles, basket ball, horizontal bars and ladder, ropes and a running track. There is a drinking faucet in each enclosure. There is a covered pavilion. There are roofs over all the apparatus, thus making it available in rain or too hot sun. Benches are plentiful. It now remains but to get the shrubs and trees planted. There is much need for workers on all of these Committees. Many necessary tasks could not be undertaken owing to lack of workers. Volunteers are called for.

The tasks most imperative are: (1) The establishment of a small Savings Bank, in the district for working people, as they have to go at least one mile in any direction to find a Savings Bank. (2) Tenement house work. The finding out of the old insanitary tenements and causing them to be demolished and causing new model tenements to be erected is most important. (3) Better pavements on Second and Third Avenues and the adjoining cross streets should be secured. (4) Trees should be planted on many streets. (5) School gardens should be created. (6) Saloons should be regulated according to law.

There are 339 saloons in Kips Bay District. On Third Avenue there are saloons on three corners of almost every crossing. Sometimes there are four. On First Avenue there are, in places, five saloons on one side of one block.

The Committee proposes to continue its work of trying to secure the extension of St. Gabriel's Park during the coming year.

Respectfully submitted, Edith Kendall, for
Mrs. J. Noble Hayes, Chairman.

Received as Treasurer of Woman's Municipal League, Kips Bay District, twenty-one dollars ($21); to Rudolph Lenz, printer, six-fifty ($6.50); to Mrs. I. C. Barrows five dollars ($5), for postage; and for postage to the Treasurer, sixty cents (60c.), making $12.10, leaving a balance of $8.90 in Treasury.

MRS. HOAG.

Report of Committee on Station Houses of Kip's Bay Branch.

On Saturday, February 24th, Mrs. Barrows and Mrs. Taft visited three station houses in the district of Kip's Bay, and found the conditions as stated by Judge Ommen. The station houses are old and the plumbing absolutely unfit, unsanitary and impossible. There are no suitable or uplifting conditions, provision for privacy, cleanliness or even a humane degree of comfort. The policemen, janitors and matron were civil and apparently suitable and worthy people who were doing their best under existing conditions.

In the East Twenty-second Street station house between First and Second Avenues, there were 10 cells for men, and the janitor stated that on the preceding Saturday 22 male prisoners were brought in to occupy these 10 cells. There are no cells for women in this station house and there is no matron there. (The woman worker who has charge of the policemen's quarters above is a member of St. George's Church, the daughter of a policeman who was drowned, and she has always met with respectful treatment, as stated by Miss Young, Deaconess). An average of 25 women a week are brought in and sent on to the Thirty-fifth Street station, where there is a matron.

The 10 cells for men are in a rear building on the ground floor. They have stone floors which are washed daily with a hose. These were wet when seen by the Committee and looked as though they would long remain so. Each cell has a wooden bench for a bed, no mattress, an iron grating for a door, an old, uncovered toilet-seat, broken and discolored, with a faucet above it. No wash-basin, soap or towel. There were windows opening on a small court between the front and rear buildings opposite the front row of cells. The cells were empty, the windows open and the ventilation consequently good. On the floor above the cells is an unused loft with windows and skylights where additional cells could be made above the present ones, as recommended by the Murray Hill Branch of the Woman's Municipal League and refused by ex-Commissioner McAdoo because of lack of funds. This loft now contains only election boxes. The light and air would be better there than below. Absolutely new plumbing should be installed at once by order of the Board of Health, which, it was said, has already condemned the row of six or seven open toilet closets in the basement or cellar of the front building. These have no doors and were so really dreadful that one could not approach them.

The station house No. 160 East Thirty-fifth Street had 11 cells for men in the basement. It was dark and the gas had to be lighted to show these cells. There were a few windows high up which gave air but little light; the same iron gratings for doors, stone floors, wooden benches and uncovered toilets seen elsewhere were there also.

On the entrance floor above, in front, is the police office, and in the rear, beyond the stairs leading up to the policemen's quarters, is the matron's room, and beyond this are the six cells for women with windows opening on the small court. The matron in charge, Mrs. Merrill, was an extremely nice and dignified woman. She said that an average of 300 to 350 women were brought there monthly, 19 or 20 during some nights, to occupy the 6 cells, 3 in each. The cells

were similar to those for men—wooden bench, uncovered seat with faucet, stone floors, iron grating.

The matron's room (which she has to clean herself) was neat but in disrepair; broken walls, paper peeling off, worn-out oil-cloth, broken-seated rocking-chair. The good things were two windows, electric light, steam-heat, a sofa and a good toilet closet. To make this room comfortable for the matron's 12 hours on duty only new paint, linoleum, a rug, and one or two good chairs are needed.

The station house at 163 East Fifty-first Street is larger and in better repair than the first two. One hundred and thirty-eight reserve policemen are quartered there. Their three sleeping rooms on the first floor upstairs are crowded with beds close together, which are not, however, all occupied at once. The ceilings are high and the windows large. There is a dressing room on the floor below for the policemen with a row of modern wash-basins. The policemen each pay seventy-five cents a month to have their quarters cared for. There is no matron and no women prisoners are kept over night in this station house.

There are 20 cells for men, 8 in the basement not in use, and 12 on the first floor rear. Average 9 to 15 prisoners a night. The iron-work had been recently painted in these cells and the walls, instead of being scribbled over in pencil by the prisoners, as was the case in other stations, but all the windows were closed and the ventilation was bad in consequence. The janitor said the floor was of iron and rusted when wet if the windows were opened. There were holes in the walls opposite the rear cells stuffed with newspapers to keep out the draught.

Your Committee would suggest that it be empowered to write letters to the Mayor, the President of the Board of Health, the Commissioner of Police and the Borough President endorsing Judge Ommen's recent report and recommendations for radical changes and improvements in the station houses.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Jay Taft,
For Mrs. J. Noble Hayes,
Chairman.

Report of the Murray Hill Local Improvement District.

The Murray Hill Branch has held its monthly meetings regularly during the past year. Early in last December the Chairman called a special meeting of the Chairmen of the different districts to consider ways and means of financing the General Committee, and the outcome of that, and other meetings, is the present financial appeal. The attention of this District having been called to the evil effects upon the morals of children of having prisoners from prison vans discharged in the streets, a committee called upon Commissioner Bingham in reference to the matter. The Commissioner treated your Committee with great courtesy and promised, as far as possible, to have the private entrances used in the police stations; those in the courts of law not being under his control but under the jurisdiction of the Department of Charities.

Several members of the Murray Hill Branch also investigated a complaint in regard to the removal of ashes and garbage in one of the west side districts, and found the work of the city satisfactory, but the habits of the people residing in the neighborhood not encouraging to cleanliness.

By far the most interesting work undertaken by our Committee was the investigation of the statutes of different cities relating to "street obstructions"

and the "storage of building materials in streets." The officers of seven of the principal cities of the United States were written to by the Chairman. Prompt answers were received and in all but one city, the laws were the same as those at present in effect in New York. The exception, Cleveland, Ohio, had a commission at work preparing a universal code, framed on the foreign laws, which they hoped soon to put into such good effect that other cities might be inspired to follow their example.

At a special meeting in May, the Committee, after retaining sufficient money to cover the running expenses, gave the sum of $200 towards the general expenses of the League, and furthermore decided to pay for the printing of the financial appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANCES C. E. WENDELL.

Report of Chelsea Local Improvement District.

The membership of the Chelsea Branch for last season numbered 50. Meetings were held once a month from November to May and a special meeting in January. Average attendance, 19. The Executive Board met regularly once a month also. The speakers at the different meetings were Miss Chanler, Miss Helen K. Hoy, Mr. Charles R. Lamb and Miss Lida Latimore.

In December it was reported from the Comptroller's office that one-half of the block given to Chelsea for a park had been bought at a cost of $300,000, but since then little progress seems to have been made in acquiring the remaining portion.

To-day we hear that on Friday, November 9th, the buildings on the entire block will be sold at public auction by order of the Comptroller.

The only new work undertaken by this Branch was an inquiry into the ordinance of street cleaning for this neighborhood.

Respectfully submitted,

C. S. BROWNSON,
Secretary.

Report of the Heights Local Improvement District.

As the fiscal year of this Branch of the League does not begin until January, when our annual report is presented, we can give to-day only a brief outline of the work accomplished during the past few months. The question of changing the date of our annual meeting so as to make it coincide with that of the New York League was brought up for discussion before the October meeting and will be voted upon this month.

The Heights Branch has seven committees at work—on Public Safety, on Tenements, on Health, on Libraries, on Public Schools, Parks and Playgrounds, on Speakers and on the Press, and we feel that good work has been done by these committees.

Last autumn the School Committee called our attention to the fact that on account of unfinished repairs, painting, plastering, etc., many of the Brooklyn public schools were unfit to receive pupils at the beginning of the school year. The Committee took the matter in hand and is able to report that the schools were in much better condition this September. This Committee has also taken an active interest in the vacation schools and the playgrounds.

At the present time the members of the Committee are visiting the schools in order to get accurate information as to the number of children coming to school without breakfast or improperly clothed and as to how many have defective eyesight and are not able to provide themselves with glasses. A report on this subject will be made at our next meeting.

The Public Safety Committee has regularly visited the jails, station houses and comfort stations in our district and has interested itself especially in the treatment of women prisoners at the Adams Street police station. The condition of our Brooklyn streets has been the subject of many protests and complaints and we feel that our only hope for improvement lies in the appointment of a Deputy Commissioner of Street Cleaning for Brooklyn. We think that a Deputy having fuller powers and authority than a Superintendent, such as we now have, would be able to accomplish much better work. An effort will be made to secure the appointment of such a Deputy. Special efforts will be made to abate the smoke nuisance and members are urged to be specific and persistent in reporting violations of the soft coal ordinance.

During the past year the Tenement House Committee has distributed leaflets in English, Italian and Syrian, in which were given in simple words the most important sanitary regulations for dwellers in tenement houses. Many violations of the tenement house law have been reported and these complaints have always received prompt attention from the Tenement House Department.

We have had several interesting talks on subjects connected with our work. In November Miss Sayles, an inspector of tenements, told us about the duties of inspectors and described her work in New York. In February Professor Olsen of the Brooklyn Polytechnic spoke on food adulteration with special reference to the pure food bill, and in March Miss Hoy gave a very interesting talk on the disposal of city waste, in which she described European methods, and urged the establishment of incinerators in various parts of the city.

With a view to increasing our membership, a committee is now preparing a circular to be sent to non-members of the League, in which they are urged to join us in our work. We hope for many recruits as the result of this appeal.

We have no new plans for the coming winter, but intend to continue our work along the lines indicated in this report, and we hope to do so with increasing energy and with still more success than in the past.

J. S. Dike,
Chairman.

Treasurer's Annual Report.

Catharine S. Leverich in account with Woman's Municipal League.

November 1st, 1095 to November 1st, 1906.

Dr.		*Cr.*	
To Balance in Bank, November 1st, 1905	$33.54	By Rent	$590.00
Local Improvement Branches, Percentages on Dues	91.39	Office expenses (including postage for Bulletin)	176.80
Dues from members not allied to Local Improvement Branches	104.00	* Printing	429.15
Donations for general expenses.	1,843.00	Stationery	60.10
Subscribing members	175.00	Salary, Assistant Secretary	930.00
Repaid from House Fund	180.00	Telephone	77.88
Receipts for sundries	4.74	Advanced to House Fund	190.15
Loan	105.00	Typewriter	40.00
		Christmas Present, City Club	25.00
		Commissioner of Deeds License.	5.00
		Moving	10.00
		Balance	2.49
	$2,536.67		$2,536.67

* In addition, the expense of printing the Bulletin for four months was met by Mrs. Aldrich.

The Consumers' League

of the City of New York

Room 617, 105 East 22d Street

Mrs. Frederick Nathan, *President*

Miss Helen Phelps Stokes, *1st Vice-President.*
Mrs. Hugh Munroe Dewees, *2d Vice-President.*
Miss Alice H. Day, *Treasurer.*
Mrs. Christopher Wyatt, *Recording Secretary.*
Mrs. Geo. K. B. Wade, *Corresponding Secretary.*
Miss Pauline Goldmark, *Executive Secretary.*

Mr. Paul Kellogg of *Charities and the Commons* devised the ingenious plan of organizing a movement on a national scale to lessen the hardships of the Christmas season. By the help of Mr. Jacob Riis the signatures of several prominent merchants and newspaper editors were obtained for the following appeal which has been sent to more than a thousand retail merchants:

Letter to Merchants.

Dear Sir:—Will you join in a movement on a national scale to modify the hardships incident to holiday shopping?

Every year the celebration of Christmas grows more elaborate. More presents are bought, the crowds are greater, the decorations are more splendid.

The problems of the merchants are correspondingly more complex. The supply of labor has to be increased, the pressure at every point intensifies. On one hand public opinion disapproves long hours and late work, particularly for young women, girls and children. On the other, merely through thoughtlessness, many shoppers defer their purchasers until the last possible moment, at the cost of unnecessary strain upon salespeople and delivery force.

By joint effort of editors and merchants the idea can be brought home to millions of customers that they can benefit themselves and everyone concerned, if they will do their Christmas shopping early in the season and early in the day, thus lengthening the Christmas shopping period and reducing the disadvantages which in other seasons have attended the Christmas crowds.

Will you not insert in the corner of your display advertising in all local papers such a card as the enclosed?

Sincerely,

Jacob A. Riis, New York.
Nathan Straus, New York City.
Woodward & Lothrop, Washington, D. C.
Edward W. Bok, Editor of the *Ladies' Home Journal.*
Geor W. Ochs, Publisher and Editor of the *Public Ledger,* Philadelphia.
Leigh Reilly, Editor of the Chicago *Evening Post.*
Clark Howell, Editor of the *Atlanta Constitution,* Atlanta, Ga.
Conde Hamlin, Editor of St. Paul *Pioneer Press,* St. Paul.
Edward A. Filene, Wm. Filene's Sons Co., Boston.

To Christmas Shoppers.

Please buy your presents early—early in the day and early in December. That will be your biggest gift of the holidays to the workers behind the counters and on the delivery wagons.

A similar letter was sent to a large number of newspaper editors asking for editorial mention. This request has met with a hearty response.

In New York State the Child Labor Law has been made more effective than ever before since the enactment by the last Legislature of a uniform closing hour—7 P. M.—for all children under 16 years. The mere fact of seeing such children at work after the legal closing hour proves non-compliance with the law. It is therefore possible for the shopping public to help protect the children by reporting violations in writing to the Consumers' League, which will gladly make further investigations of such cases.

Various clubs have adopted the following resolutions:

That the club heartily approves of the new Child Labor Law which prohibits the employment of children under 16 years of age after 7 P. M. and undertakes to do all in its power to promote the enforcement thereof. We call upon Dr. Darlington, New York City Health Commissioner, to prosecute all violations whether discovered by his Department or otherwise brought to his attention with trustworthy evidence.

Let us keep what is good in the Christmas festival.

Let us continue, as before, to feed the lame, the halt, the blind, and the friendless.

But let us not, in the process, lightly reduce to illness and exhaustion the young and faithful who serve us, seen and unseen.

Let us be quite sure, for these, Christmas may be a season of peace on earth, good-will to men.

It might almost be regarded as a definite violation of our humanitarian principles to shop either the week before Christmas or late in the day during December.

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

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January, 1907

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. V. JANUARY, 1907 No. 6

The regular Monthly Meeting for January will be held on January 17th, the first Thursday after the third Wednesday of the month.

The speaker will be MR. WILLIAM WIRT MILLS, the subject of whose address will be devoted to "Perils of our Milk Supply."

JOSEPHINE REDDING, *Secretary.*

The Day Camp for Consumptives.

Its Importance in the Tuberculosis Campaign.

As yet almost unknown in this country, the Day Camp for Consumptives has demonstrated its importance in Germany, where it is a most effective adjunct in the fight against tuberculosis, not only in the large cities, but in many of the smaller towns even. Such a camp has been in operation now for two summers in Boston (it being the only one of the kind in this country), and a most humane and beneficent work is being achieved by its means.

Consumption and poverty are closely allied, since for one thing it is a slow, expensive disease and usually makes those whom it attacks poor, even if they are not so in the beginning. Besides the conditions of living in tenement districts are favorable to its development, and it is not surprising therefore that it is prevalent in the congested sections of our city.

The Day Camp offers an inexpensive and effective method of relief. In especial, it is applicable to that large class of women, the mothers in the households of the poor, whose double burden of housework and child-bearing in an unhealthful environment plays so large a part in superinducing the disease.

Briefly, the working programme is as follows: The patients come for the day only, bringing their children, and return to their homes each evening. To this end the camp must be accessible. Vacant land on the East River would, for example, be well-adapted for the purpose. Daily medical attendance is, of course, included, and the patients are under the care of a trained nurse, a part of whose duty consists in visiting them occasionally at their homes in the evening in order to instruct them in matters pertaining to ventilation and hygienic living. A nurse-maid is in attendance to look after the children. Cots, under a shelter-tent, for those invalids running temperature, are provided. Good nourishing food—a dinner and luncheon each day—is also provided.

The work of the Day Camp, while primarily humanitarian, is also educational, and herein lies its greatest power for good, as the instruction given to the mothers in preventive measures enables them to guard against giving the contagion to their children, as well as shows them how to improve their own condition.

These camps, which, as I have said, are common in Germany, are credited with saving many lives annually. They offer facilities to invalids of small means, who spend their lives in unhealthful environments, and who cannot, or will not, be separated from their families, for healthful living, and a chance for recovery. Such an institution gives the tired, helpless mother the luxury of rest, good nutritious food, intelligent and kindly supervision, in which not only the physical, but the psychical side is considered; the patients soon come to make a confidant of the nurse, telling her their troubles, and receiving in return the sympathy which means so much to the invalid.

These camps aid a class of persons for whom, in the very nature of things, but little can be done in the ordinary channels, as they have neither the means nor the desire to go to a sanitarium, and do not know how to live hygienically in their homes.

Among all diseases, consumption is our greatest enemy, yet it is easily controlled at the onset, and with an adequate equipment could be stamped out entirely in this country. This is a freely expressed aim in Germany, where they have even set the limit as to when this result is to be accomplished. There is nothing Utopian in such a forecast for this country, but the work is so large a one that only by concerted action on the part of large bodies of people in conjunction with civil, state, and federal governments, can this be brought about. Meanwhile the Day Camp is advocated, as being a stepping-stone in that direction.

GEORGE A. FISCHER.

Extracts from Minutes of Public Meeting

held at 19 East 26th Street, December 13th, 1906.

Miss Frances A. Kellor, Director of the Inter-Municipal Research Committee, gave a comprehensive resumé of the various activities carried on by the organization under her charge. Miss Kellor stated that the work of her Committee is two-fold inasmuch as it includes a study of all the conditions relating to domestic workers, as well as the practical work, growing out of such investigation, of referring to the proper agencies the data obtained.

An important work of the past year has been their investigation of employment agencies, which has disclosed a woeful lack of efficiency among the Government inspectors, and a campaign which resulted in the passage of the employment agency bill. A similar investigation in Jersey City has been begun.

An investigation of conditions affecting immigrant women and girls has resulted in the establishment of an Immigrant Woman's Aid Association and in the employment of a Friendly Visitor with a constantly growing work in their behalf. A Friendly House has been opened at 40 Stuyvesant Street.

The Committee is co-operating also with the New York Association for the Protection of Colored Women, which is likewise about to establish a Friendly House.

Another line of investigation by this Committee disclosed the startling fact that of the cases disclosed the fact that 95 per cent of births among Italians of the city are attended by midwives, and that while they are not an altogether ignorant body, the majority having received any training they may have had in their special line of work before coming here, there is nevertheless need of a specific law setting a standard and requiring fixed qualifications. This the Committee hopes to accomplish. Still another interest of the Committee is the

living conditions of the chorus girls of this city have been investigated with a view to procuring a club house or otherwise remedying existing evils among them.

The results of the Committee's investigation of Lodging Houses and Immigrant Homes have been filed in the District Attorney's office. Their investigation of disorderly houses resulted in the Murphy bill.

In co-operation with the Bureau of Commerce and Labor the Committee investigated immigrant agencies for men, including contract labor, banks and steamship companies, railways and land colonization schemes, and State and other agencies for distribution of the immigrant in the West and South.

Miss Fried also gave an interesting account of other work of the Committee.

Monthly Reports.

Morrisania Local Improvement District Branch, presented to the Central Committee on December 19, 1906.

A visit was paid by Mrs. Campbell, Secretary of the Kingsbridge Division, to the fire department, and her complaint as to the incompetence of the fire department in the neighborhood of Kingsbridge was handed to the chief.

She found that no chart of the fire plugs of this neighborhood was on file and this omission was rectified within the next few days.

A chief was also sent to Kingsbridge to get more detailed information in regard to the conduct of the firemen. The matter will be prosecuted further by our members.

Fifteen dollars was contributed by this division to the League's expenses.

The Deputy Highway Commissioner called on our chairman for suggestions on road improvement and said he would gladly comply with any of our wishes.

Mrs. Fiske has organized in Woodstock and paid thirty-eight visits and enlisted six new and interested members. A meeting was held with these new members and it was decided to continue raising funds for the fountain and to take up the matter of clearing empty lots of refuse and tin cans. She also asked permission to appeal to Commissioner Darlington to have the Prospect Avenue station and steps kept clean. These are again as dirty as they were before our appeal of last year. Discussion was held on the best method of compelling the city to remove snow from the sidewalks of empty lots and of inaugurating a campaign against the indecent scribblings on the walls of toilets in the Bronx department stores.

There are good prospects of forming a new division in Spuyten Duyvil.

Extracts from Monthly Report

of The Washington Heights Local Improvement District Branch.

Miss Hobbie reported for Inwood that she had not received any satisfactory replies from the owner of the property on which disfiuring advertisements were placed; that she had written to Commissioner Darlington complaining of the dumping of tins and garbage in empty lots and had received assurance that the matter would be immediately attended to.

She also complained to the street cleaning foreman of the papers and rubbish on Broadway and was assured that that matter would also be taken up as soon as possible. She is also trying to interest the public school boys in keeping the streets clean.

Murray Hill Branch.

Report for November-December, 1906.

During the past month the Branch held its regular meeting at which reports on the smoke nuisance were handed in. Letters were received from the Secretary of the City Club, from the Merchants' Association Committee on Sidewalks and Encumbrances in reference to the Cleveland code on "street obstructions" and the "storage of building material in streets." Mr. Crosby, the City Club's Chairman on Streets, reported having sent our Chairman's letter on the subject to the Chairman of the Mayor's newly appointed Commissioner on Streets.

A letter was received from Police Commissioner Bingham refusing a permit to visit the quarters of the mounted police in the Central Park Sheepfold, on the plea that the quarters were so small that the men had to use one small room in which to dress and undress. It was decided by the Committee to write ex-Commissioner McAdoo for advice before taking any further steps in this matter. Arrangements for the Tea on December 27th were discussed and completed.

E. B. Van Arminge,
Acting Secretary Murray Hill District.

Report of the Fountain Committee Meeting in December.

Present, Mrs. Dillingham in chair; Miss Day, Miss Holmes, Miss Holt, Miss Stockton.

It was voted that each member should in the future be given two fountains, these to be under her direct care and looked after in all details. A schedule of these details was made up by Mrs. Dillingham.

A history of each fountain from its beginning has been written by Mrs. Dillingham, a copy of each of which should be sent to the Central Committee of the League; one to be given to each member concerning the two fountains assigned to her. In the future each member will add all information she gathers.

It was voted that this Committee will put up a new fountain near the Salvation Army Hotel, Chatham Square, next spring, with our present treasury surplus, $200. Salvation Army Hotel is to bear the expenses of ice and repairs.

Miss Day reported having investigated the Florence Crittendon Mission as a possible location. There is a great deal of passing to and fro in this locality both night and morning and it would be a desirable place to erect a fountain.

Miriam K. Stockton,
Secretary.

Greenwich Branch.

At the December meeting of the Greenwich Branch Miss Ward reported of her success in meeting her local street foreman, and of how pleased he was to have any interest shown. He gave Miss Ward a mass of information which it would be well for every householder to tabulate. The plan of knowing your local foreman and complaining to him, promises to be more effective than to make general complaints to this department. Miss Ward is now investigating the garbage collection in her district.

Miss Day reported interviewing the managers of several of the large cloak and suit houses on Fifth Avenue between Twentieth and Sixteenth Streets in regard to their men spitting on the pavements during the noon hour. They promised to speak to the men about it.

It was decided to hold a series of monthly meetings, the third Thursday of every month, at Richmond Hill House, and have given talks on civic and educational matters of interest to the women. These to be followed by tea. The January talk will be on Child Labor, and Miss Pauline Goldmark will speak.

It was also decided to have at the January meeting of our branch a tea, at the headquarters of the League on January 15th. There will be short informal talks on tenement improvement, for half an hour, followed by tea.

K. S. Day, Chairman.

Awful Penalty for Impure Milk.

The proprietor of the magazine *What to Eat,* who recently made a personal investigation of food conditions in New York, says some startling things in regard to the milk supply, thus confirming statements in regard to it made in previous issues of the Bulletin.

Mr. Pierce says:

What is the cause of this enormous infant mortality? Is it that children are born into the world to be taken away before they scarcely obtain a glimpse of the strange life it represents, or before they can obtain an idea of how to protect themselves in the seething struggle for wealth, a struggle that tramples down the baby with the mother, the child with the adult?

If the natural mind should not think it nice that so many babies should die in New York every year from natural causes, a suggestion of the cause may be found in the condition of New York's milk supply. Milk sold in New York is often preserved with formaldehyde, which is used as a substitute for cleanliness. Formaldehyde is poisonous to babies. But a still greater danger to New York's milk supply exists in the small amount of effort exercised to protect it from contamination. The New York health authorities have not yet learned that milk is more susceptible to poisonous pollution than any other substance used for food. To be pure the milk should remain air tight until it is drunk by the consumer.

The deaths of children under five years of age are nearly as numerous as are the total deaths of all people, from all causes, of all ages between five and sixty. Now, New York has partially realized the awful penalty it is paying for impure milk, but it has not struck at the core of the evil, the dairy. It has not fully realized how sensitive milk is to contamination. The local Board of Health has displayed activity in prosecuting dairymen who preserved their milk with formaldehyde and salicylic acid to prevent it from spoiling. after it has been subjected to decomposing influences, but it has not looked with sufficient care to the methods of producing, shipping and selling the milk.

The greatest danger lies in the milk that is dished out by grocery stores, delicatessens and other such retail houses, because it has gone through a greater number of exposures to contaminating influences. The more milk is handled and the longer the time from the cow to the consumer, the more poisonous it becomes unless it is kept absolutely airtight.

There is reason to believe that a new preservative, not yet discovered by the city chemists of New York, is being employed in keeping the milk from spoiling. If milk or cream be kept in a warm place in an open vessel for forty-eight hours, and still retains its sweetness, there is strong reason to suspect that it contains a preservative. Samples of milk purchased in New York stood the test for fifty hours and had not soured to any perceptible extent. It might be suggested that the New York chemists search the milk for fluorides. These preservatives are very difficult to detect, yet they are gaining in popularity among food producers since the enactment of the national food law, from the very reason of their obscurity to chemists' eyes.

These new preservatives have recently made their appearance on the market in the forms of calcium peroxide, magnesium peroxide and ammonium fluoride. The latter has never been advertised and its sale is on the quiet.

On being taken into the stomach the neutral fluoride is acted upon by the neutral acids of the stomach and the hydrofluoric acid is liberated in a nascent state, in which state it rapidly absorbs the water present in the cellular tissues also, losing none of its poisonous characters.

It can thus be seen that the digestive process might be seriously injured in a very short time by the continued use of a fluoride in a food, even in very limited quantities.

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The decision of the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, rendered in December, in the case of the People against Williams and O'Rourke, has aroused widespread interest and comment. It declares unconstitutional the clause of the State Labor law which forbids work after nine o'clock at night for women employed in factories. The court was divided, two of the five justices holding the law constitutional and necessary for the preservation of health and morals of working women.

In New York City alone the newspapers have given this important case extensive editorial notice. *The World, Tribune, Times, Evening Post, Mail* and *Globe*, besides *Collier's* and *Ridgeway's* weeklies and the *Literary Digest* have discussed the issue in detail. Without exception they have realized the disastrous blow which this decision deals the cause of working women in the State of New York. They have emphasized the minority opinion, as expressed by Justice Houghton, as follows:

"Constant night work is unhealthful for men, and more so for women. It is a matter of legitimate concern to the State that its women shall be healthy; and it is a matter of much greater concern that its children shall be strong and grow to be self-supporting and active citizens rather than remain weakly and ultimately become a burden upon the public. . . . It seems to me that the law is reasonable and one which the Legislature had the power to enact for the protection of the health of a very large class of citizens of the State."

Justice Ingraham, the other dissenting justice, declares that the question at issue is "whether the attempted exercise of police powers may be fairly said to be for the safety, health, morals and general welfare of the public," and he is emphatically of the belief that it may be so held.

On the other hand, Justice Scott for the majority, held that to sustain the provision forbidding night work for women "we must find that, owing to some physical or nervous difference, it is more harmful for a woman to work at night than for a man to do so, for concededly the clause in question would be unconstitutional if it applied to men as well as to women. We are not aware of any such difference, and in all the discussions that have taken place none such have been pointed out."

Commenting on the effect of this decision, in the recent number of *Charities and the Commons,* Mrs. Florence Kelley says:

"There is some honest difference of opinion as to the immediate bearing of the decision upon boys under eighteen and girls under twenty-one years of age. As to young women twenty-one years of age and over, the effect is undisputed.

"This decision means that, on her 21st birthday, every girl employed in a factory in New York State can legally be required to work all night. The ten hours of her working time may begin at any hour, and end at any hour in the twenty-four. Her employer may legally detain her until two in the morning and then send her home through deserted streets, the prey of every criminal.

"In the small hours of the morning transit facilities are at their worst; ferries and trains are then fewer than ever. The weather is coldest when the Christmas pressure most tempts employers to work their plants at night.

"The people of New York view with just pride their child labor law which forbids girls to work longer than nine hours in one day, fifty-four hours in one week, and after 7 p. m. before the sixteenth birthday. Then, if the writer's interpretation of the present decision shall prove correct, all protection is removed. On that birthday the wage-earning girl is precisely the same person that she was on the day before. Her future value to the community, as a wage earner and as a potential wife and mother, is unchanged; her health and morals are no less important, and she is no more able to defend them unaided by the law.

"It is idle to assert that night work of young girls will not occur. It occurs at the present time. Manufacturers are now advertising for "girls to work from 9 p. m. to 6 a. m." Under stress of "rush orders" manufacturers are now sending home employes only when those orders are filled, whatever the hour.

"It is vain to hope that women may not be forced to work at night. When no law forbids, poverty drives them, on pain of "losing their job."

"Wage-earning women in America are young women; more than half of them, according to the United States census of 1900, are less than twenty-five years of age. To sacrifice their health and morals is no less grave an injury to the nation, than the sacrifice of the children now protected by the child labor law."

While the above case has been before the court, a closely connected provision of the labor law has come up for judicial scrutiny. The New York City Court of Special Sessions has held constitutional the limitations of women's work to sixty hours a week. This invaluable requirement is, however, almost nullified by the abolition of a legal closing hour. When work may be done by day or night, or partly by day and partly by night, the difficulties of enforcement are practically insuperable. The sixty-hour law and the prohibition against night work are vitally related, and were in fact intended to supplement each other.

Justice Houghton, speaking of these two provisions, says their purpose "is to prohibit women working in factories more than sixty hours in any one week, and at presumably unhealthful hours, and to that end it prescribes that they shall not work before six in the morning and after nine at night, and no more than ten hours in any one day, except for the purpose of making a shorter day on the last day of the week."

It is hoped that this extraordinarily important case will be carried to the Court of Appeals as promptly as possible and that the incoming Attorney General, Hon. William S. Jackson, will give it his close personal interest. In our opinion it offers him an opportunity to make a signal record.

The highest court of the State has still to speak before working women are deprived of the protection afforded by this invaluable statute.

A Mass-Meeting will be held at Carnegie Lyceum, at 8 p.m., on January 21st, to endorse the Bill now before Congress authorizing the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to investigate and report upon the industrial, social, moral, educational and physical condition of women and child workers in the United States. Among the speakers will be Dr. Samuel Lindsay, Mrs. Florence Kelley and Dr. Stephens Wise.

The Annual Meeting of the New York City Consumers' League will be held at the Hudson Theatre, 139 West 44th Street, on Thursday, January 31st, at 3.30 p.m.

All are cordially invited to attend both meetings.

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

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....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. V. FEBRUARY, 1907 No. 7

The regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, February 21st, at 11 a.m., at the Rooms of the League, 19 East 26th Street.

PROFESSOR CHARLES SPRAGUE SMITH, Director of the People's Institute, will speak on the "Vital Civic Work the People's Institute Is Accomplishing."

JOSEPHINE REDDING, *Secretary.*

For the Founder of the League

A design for a memorial gateway has been decided by the Josephine Shaw Lowell Memorial Committee, of which Seth Low is chairman. And the site deemed most appropriate is at one of the foot entrances to Central Park. This is a memorial which should especially appeal to the members of the Woman's Municipal League, since it is due to Mrs. Shaw's initiative that this important civic group was organized. A circular giving full particulars of the aims of the Memorial Committee is enclosed in this issue of the BULLETIN.

The headquarters of the League are embellished by a portrait of Mrs. Lowell—a reproduction of a bas-relief—a recent gift of a daughter of the founder of the League.

Monthly Reports from Branches

Riverside Branch

This Branch has laid out its work this winter along three lines:

First, the restoration of Broadway; second, the cleaning of the streets; third, reorganization of the Juvenile Leagues as instituted under Col. Waring.

The restoration of the Boulevard is, as the ladies present can readily understand, not a small undertaking. Early in the winter our committee appeared before the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen to secure the appropriation for the railings.

This the Finance Committee refused, but Alderman Sellers finally secured the appropriation of $50,000, and the matter is now in the D. P. W. hands. That they are holding the matter a little in abeyance is due to the fact that they are waiting for the Riverside Branch and the West End Association to decide upon the style of fence to be used.

At first we were afraid that the middle pathway would be done away with, and each pathway surrounded by a railing, as is Mrs. Potter's pathway. Mr. Parsons concurs with us in regarding this treatment as inadvisable and is engaged in making plans by which the pathway will be maintained. In general his idea is that the details of the pathways shall vary and that trees and shrubs shall be used to produce the desired beauty of effect, in conjunction of course with the grass. And to preserve the beauty a low architectural fence is to be placed along the sides, but not across the ends.

And finally, I must report that the West End Association has been kindled with enthusiasm and that the Law Committee with Mr. John C. Coleman as Chairman, has secured the assistance and interest of the Corporation Counsel, Mr. Ellison, to the end that a bill is in the act of being drawn that shall place Broadway under the jurisdiction of the Parks Commissioner, and incorporated in this bill is to be an appropriation to be secured by city bonds, to the amount of $100 000, to enable the Parks Commissioner to restore the trees, shrubs, etc.

This, however, is not all. In the beginning of the winter we did not dare to hope that so much could be done, so we determined to make Broadway clean at least. Early in the autumn Miss Frances Peters, with this end in view, visited Commissioner Hermann, and by her own efforts succeeded in getting him to clean the pathways. And now frequently a man is seen picking up papers and other forms of refuse, and the improvement is clearly noticeable.

A large committee with Mrs. Percival Knauth as Chairman, has carried on work to the same end but along different lines. This Committee districted Broadway and has distributed cards instructing the public as to the law regarding its responsibility in keeping the streets clean. Every apartment house and shopkeeper along Broadway has been given one of these cards and each lady reports the most cordial attitude and lively interest on the part of these people.

The matter of the Juvenile League has as yet not taken any definite shape. A most interesting meeting was held just before Christmas at Mrs. Percival Knauth's and a Mr. Simons told us of his work under Col. Waring, I should be glad to tell the story of this splendid work, but fear my report is already unduly long. I can only say that in Mr. Simons's opinion no work carried on by Col. Waring was of more value than that resulting from the organization of those children. And so great and so serious is the work that I am requested to bring the recommendation from our Branch to the other Branches of the League that they embark as soon as possible on the work. We shall be glad to place our own information at the disposal of any other Branch and Mr. Simons (who is blind) will address any meeting and do any and everything in his power to encourage and organize the work.

There have been at least twelve new members added to our list.

To sum up, the Riverside Branch has accomplished a certain distinct gain in improving the appearance of Broadway by increasing its general appearance of orderliness. It has gained a fund of information regarding street-cleaning and the organization of Juvenile Leagues which it will be glad to place at the disposal of any other Branch. And in so doing it recommends these two important matters to the active and energetic consideration of every other Branch.

And finally, it hopes to co-operate with the other West End Associations so effectively as to realize in the near future its first aim and ambition, the restoration of Broadway.

Respectfully submitted,

A. L. MacDougall,
Executive Chairman.

Washington Heights Branch

The January meeting was held at the home of Mrs. J. S. Davison on January 7th. The Chairman reported that on her complaint to the Bureau of Highways of a large hole in the asphalt at 129th Street near Eighth Avenue, work had been begun upon repairs, and that before the next meeting she believed she could report the job finished.

Mrs. Carbonell being absent, there was no report upon the smoke nuisance from the tin can factory at 155th Street near Eighth Avenue.

We who live near Seventh Avenue are rejoicing that at last the five-foot water pipes which have bordered that avenue since early last spring, are being put under ground. These pipes have entirely obstructed the gutters, and the amount of filth that has been collected in, and underneath them, has been a menace to the health of those in the vicinity.

Mrs. Helen J. Andruss was selected to fill the vacancy in the Committee on Tenements caused by the removal from the city of Mrs. W. B. Corney.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN H. MEYERS, Chairman.

Murray Hill Branch

The regular monthly meeting of the Murray Hill Branch was held on Wednesday, January 9, 1907, at the League's Headquarters, at 10 o'clock. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and corrected. The Treasurer reported $236.47; disbursements $4.90; about fifty-five members being still in arrears with their annual dues. Resignations from the Executive Committee were read from Mrs. Ford and the Misses Kimball and accepted. Mrs. Lambert, who was unable to be present, reported to the Chairman of having attended a meeting of the Committee on Tenements and that plans for raising money for the future work of this Committee had been discussed. The Murray Hill Chairman authorized Mrs. Lambert to expend $10 on the work from this District. A copy of the letter sent to the Mayor and Police Commissioner respecting the cramped and unsanitary condition of the quarters of the mounted police in the Sheepfold in Central Park was read by the Acting Secretary. The Tea given on December 27th was discussed and the Committee suggests the advisability of announcing every District Tea in advance in the BULLETIN. The meeting then adjourned.

January, 1907.

Chelsea Branch

Chelsea Branch has existed for three years without any by-laws or organization of any kind, and as the new Chairman was in the chair but five minutes before the close of the last meeting, she can only foreshadow the general plan of our work just taken up. That is, to frame our by-laws so another administration may take up active work without again wasting any time in organizing. From now on every energy of Chelsea must be bent on recruiting our ranks; our meetings have decreased in numbers until it would seem we are dying of a lingering disease; but we hope to put new vitality into our work and in a few months report a vigorous Chelsea Branch, aggressively active in good work.

HARRIET BACKUS,
Chairman.

January, 1907.

Prospect Heights Branch (Brooklyn)

At the last meeting of the Prospect Heights Branch of Brooklyn an election of officers was held. Heads of committees were appointed, and plans were considered for a committee to investigate the conditions of the Raymond Street jail, which we know are very bad.

Miss Arthur gave a most interesting talk on the result of the investigation of the Brooklyn servant agencies, the funds for which were supplied by our Branch to the Research Department of the Municipal League.

Respectfully submitted,

January, 1907. CAROLINE PRATT, President.

Monthly Reports from Committees

House Committee

There have been no meetings of the House Committee during the past month, owing to the fact that until the sub-committee had straightened out the affairs of the house repairs and the leases there was no business that the House Committee could transact. The Chairman has changed hall boys.

A screen from Miss Day and a tablecloth for the tea tables have been received. An engagement has been made for the large Assembly Rooms, by the "Shut In" Society for the afternoon of January 24th. The rents for the use of the Assembly Rooms have been nearly all paid up to date. The paying engagements for the future use of the Assembly Rooms are "Chicago Woman's Club," first Saturday in the month, large room, afternoon; "Graduate Nurses' Association," second Monday afternoon every month, small room; "Huguenot Society," afternoon February 14th, large room.

January, 1907. E. B. VAN AMRINGE,
Chairman House Committee.

Aldermanic Committee

This Committee begs to report that, after a long period of idleness, it is now in process of re-organization and, in accordance with our Constitution, all District Chairmen have been asked to send representatives to it. Murray Hill, Morrisania, Greenwich, Chelsea and Brooklyn are already represented and we held our first meeting on Friday, January 18th, and already are considering plans for work.

Respectfully submitted,

H. VAN C. DE PEYSTER,

January, 1907. Chairman.

Extracts from Papers Read at the Milk Conference Held at the January Meeting of the League

Startling statements were made by that authority on the New York milk supply, William Wirt Mills, assistant city editor of the *Evening Mail.*

Mr. Mills said that one had to look to the food of the infants to discover the cause of this city having a higher infantile death rate than any cities in this country except Washington, D. C., and San Francisco.

"The chief food of the children is milk," said Mr. Mills, "and less than 16 per cent. of the milk sold in this city is fit to drink.

"This 16 per cent. includes 3,000 quarts a day, pasteurized at Nathan Straus's laboratory, 8,000 to 10,000 quarts of certified milk sold at higher prices and 250,000 quarts more or less improved by chemical pasteurization.

"The other 84 per cent. of the nearly 2,000,000 quarts sold daily is absolutely unsafe, because of the high number of bacteria it contains.

"The best raw milk I have been able to find on sale in this city showed 1,300,000 germs to every fifteen drops, and other samples varied in count up to 22,000,000. None of this milk is fit to use.

ONLY PASTEURIZED MILK SAFE.

"The fact is, only pasteurized milk is safe food. Mr. Straus's method of pasteurization destroys practically every germ. The so-called commercial pasteurization is not so thorough, but it reduces the number of germs.

"I have had tests made of milk commercially pasteurized by a process similar to the Straus method, and it reduced the number of germs from an average of 31,000,000 to 1,600 to the cubic centimeter."

In reply to Mr. Sayles, who at this point was given an opportunity to speak, and a resumé of whose remarks follows Mr. Mills's statement, Mr. Mills, said in part: that the best authority in the city on milk inspection as now carried on, Dr. Walter Bensel, admitted it would take five years to secure a relatively safe supply by inspection only.

Mr. Mills said it was absolutely within the power of the Health Department to stop the sale of bad milk by prohibiting the sale of milk containing more than 100,000 bacteria to the cubic centimeter.

"Such a regulation could be enforced by making bacterial examination of milk, and the department has one of the best bacteriologists in the world, Dr. W. H. Park. Now, however, these examinations are few, and the department does not know what sort of milk is being sold.

"By fining men who sell bad milk, the dairymen, and insist on their supplying better milk, every dealer would be in effect an additional dairy inspector.

"The dealers know what kind of milk each dairyman supplies. Put in peril of fines, or loss of their permits, they would cancel their contracts with dairymen who supply milk of high bacterial count, or else render the milk safe by pasteurizing it.

"This method would give us safe milk now, not five years hence."

INSPECTOR SYSTEM ADVOCATED.

The following is a summary of the part taken in the discussion by John E. Sayles, representing the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor:

Mr. Mills has been with admirable persistence and energy, and I am sure with the best motives, pushing what may be called a milk pasteurization campaign. He believes that there is no other way to secure clean milk for New York City. I am sure that we all feel that Mr. Mills is entitled to his opinion, but there are others whose opinion is also entitled to consideration.

This is a subject that has long been of great interest and importance in the councils of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor. On the 20th of November we had a Milk Conference in New York at the Academy of Medicine. The members of this Conference were twenty of the leading physicians of New York especially skilled in and related to this subject through private practice and connection with children's hospitals and asylums, and fifteen health officers and secretaries of boards of health from New York and adjacent States. These men met and agreed with great unanimity against compulsory pasteurization. They believed that the best way is to purify the fountain at its source; that there should be a great increase in the force of inspectors; that every dairy and creamery should be brought into condition of wholesome cleanliness, cleanliness of cows, premises, utensils and milk cans; that tuberculous cattle should be kept out of the State and that those in it should be killed; that persons with contagious or communicable diseases should not be permitted to handle the milk or live on the premises where it is handled. They believed it is better to do these things and to keep dirt and disease germs out of milk than it is to be careless about these things and rely upon pasteurization to kill the germs in milk after or before it reaches the city, better than to pasteurize them together with the dirt and manure which have been allowed to fall into the milk.

Please always bear in mind that the true pasteurization of milk for distribution to infants through infants' milk depots is quite another thing from the proposed general pasteurization of the milk supply. All regard the former as wise and beneficent, although many of the members of the Conference preferred clean raw milk even for this purpose.

A strong committee has been formed by the A. I. C. P. at the request of the Milk Conference, and every effort will be made to assist the Health Department in its efforts to secure more inspectors, to secure clean milk, to improve conditions of the city's stores, and to provide proper feeding for the helpless babies of the city.

[It is not putting the case fairly to give the impression as Mr. Sayles does, that those who advocate pasteurization advocate the abandonment of any efficient safeguarding now done. Neither Mr. Nathan Straus, Mr. Mills, Dr. Freeman, the *Globe*, the *Sun* nor the BULLETIN ever suggested pasteurizing filthy milk.—Editor BULLETIN.]

More Critics of the Health Board

In addition to the *Evening Mail* and the BULLETIN, both of which have warned the public for some months of the perils of the milk supply, the *Globe* and the *Sun* have come out recently as aggressive critics of our Board of Health in its unenlightened course in regard to the milk supply. The criminal supineness of the Board was further emphasized by Dr. R. S. Freeman in an address at the Academy of Medicine on January 31st, in which he advocated the establishment of certified milk dairies and also pasteurizing the milk as is done in the Straus milk agencies. The speaker declared that in recent years no fewer than one hundred typhoid epidemics, fifty scarlet fever epidemics and twenty diphtheria epidemics had been traced to impure milk as their sole source. High infant mortality may be traced to it almost exclusively. To the speaker Dr. Darlington, who was present, made no adequate reply, contenting himself with advocating the inspector system.

The present epidemic of scarlet fever in Chicago, which has been traced largely to impure milk, has quickened the interest of the people of this community in the means, if any, that are taken to guard this city from such an epidemic. The *Sun* makes short work of the inspector theory. There are from 40,000 to 80,000 dairies, according to Dr. Darlington, and he expects sane persons to believe that with his present force of thirty-five inspectors increased to eighty these men could inspect properly and as frequently as necessary these thousands of dairies situated all over New York State, New Jersey, the northeast part of Pennsylvania, Connecticut, parts of Massachusetts and Vermont. The possibilities of lax inspection are thus stated by the *Sun:*

"Just how eighty inspectors looking after 80,000 dairies could guard against what happened out in Chicago is a little hard for some folks to see unless an inspector could be in a thousand places at the same time and all of the time. Each inspector gets $1,200 a year.

"To keep an inspector at each dairy all the time would cost $96,000,000 a year, and this would still be lacking as an absolute guarantee. It would involve the personal equation largely. Dr. Darlington doesn't say that he will be content with eighty inspectors. In his plan to purify the milk at the sources of supply it is probable that the appointment of many more at $1,200 a year would be needed. The berths are considered good, offering all the attractions of country life, with traveling expenses paid. The farmers owning dairies can be counted upon to make things comfortable for incumbents.

"These inspectors do not have to look for germs at all in order to draw their $1,200 a year. Perhaps the Health Department may get men who will do more than their job calls for, but it is doubtful, particularly in the case of inspectors."

The Consumers' League
of the City of New York

Room 617, 105 East 22d Street

Mrs. Frederick Nathan, *President*
Miss Helen Phelps Stokes, *1st Vice-President.*
Mrs. Hugh Munroe Dewees, *2d Vice-President.*
Miss Alice H. Day, *Treasurer.*
Miss Anita Neilson, *Recording Secretary.*
Mrs. Geo. K. B. Wade, *Corresponding Secretary.*
Miss Pauline Goldmark, *Executive Secretary.*

At the Annual Meeting of the Consumers' League, which was held on the afternoon of January 31st at the Hudson Theatre, the valuable endorsements of the work of the League, which are given below, were read to a large and enthusiastic audience:

January 20, 1907.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington.

My dear Mrs. Nathan:—Permit me thru you to express my earnest hope for the success of the Consumers' League. You are doing work that should appeal peculiarly to every good citizen, for those you befriend are greatly in need of friends and are not powerful enough to stand up for themselves. I am particularly interested in your efforts to improve the conditions under which working girls do their work in the great shops; and I have, of course, an especial interest in your effort to combat the evils of child labor. There is much outcry, chiefly, I think, from the beneficiaries of abuses, against interference by the National Government with work which should be done by the State Governments. I would always rather have the local authorities themselves attend to any evil, and therefore I would rather have the State authorities work out such reforms, when possible; but if the State authorities do not do as they should in matters of such vital importance to the whole nation as this of child labor, then there will be no choice but for the national Government to interfere. I am striving to secure either final action, or else a full and thoro investigation of the matter by the authority of Congress at the present time.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

MRS. FREDERICK NATHAN,
President Consumers' League,
New York.

To the Consumers' League:

In grateful recognition of the fact that the Consumers' League is the champion of early closing and of the rights of a large class of the unprotected wage-earners, especially women and girls—so making the League a distinctively beneficent and uplifting influence in the community.

We, the undersigned, agree to co-operate with the League in that we will circulate its literature, give notice of public meetings in furtherance of League work, and invite League representatives to present its mission to our respective congregations, or commend it in such ways as our judgment may approve to our people.

(Signed)

Henry Codman Potter,
David H. Greer,
Morgan Dix,
William R. Huntington,
Charles H. Parkhurst,
J. Lewis Parks,
Leighton Parks,
William R. Richards,
Ernest M. Stires,
Joseph Silverman,
H. Pereira Mendes,
John P. Peters,
Samuel Schulman,
Henry A. Stimson,
Henry Mottet,
J. Ross Stevenson,
Thomas R. Slicer,
Charles E. Jefferson.
Percy Stickney Grant,
William M. Grosvenor,

White List—February, 1907

(Please read this List carefully as there have been recent changes.)

Aitken, Son & Co.
*A. Alexander.
B. Altman & Co.
Arnold, Constable & Co.
Barnett Bros.
Best & Co.
Bonwit, Teller & Co.
A. H. Brummell
Butterick Publishing Co.
Cammeyer
Cremins & Roche
John Daniell & Sons
Joseph Dannenberg
Forsythe
Frank Bros.
Freud's
Hannis & LeVey
L. P. Hollander & Co.
Huyler's
Jaeger
Evan L. Jenkins
H. Kaempfer
Wm. S. Kinsey & Co.
H. C. F. Koch
Geo. F. Langenbacher
Le Boutillier Bros.
Lord & Taylor
R. H. Macy & Co.
Jas. McCreery & Co.
**Jas. McCutcheon & Co.
Madison Avenue Exchange for Woman's Work
Mirror Candies
E. A. Morrison & Son
New York Exchange for Woman's Work
C. B. Nichols & Bro.
O'Neill-Adams Co.
Oppenheim Collins & Co.
Philipsborn
Saks & Co.
F. A. O. Schwartz
Franklin Simon
Simpson, Crawford Co.
J. & J. Slater
Society of Decorative Art
Sommers
Stern Bros.
Mme. L. Thurn
A. A. Vantine & Co.
John Wanamaker
West End Exchange for Woman's Work
Young Women's Christian Association

* The shoedealers, Arnold, McClenahan & O'Neill, less than three women are employed; and ** linen merchants, McGibbon & Co., only men are employed, so not included in the White List. Conditions excellent.

It will be seen that only firms in certain lines of trade have thus far been investigated.

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

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Consumers' League Section

March, 1907

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. V. MARCH, 1907 No. 8

The regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, March 21st, at 11 a.m., at the Headquarters of the League, 19 East 26th Street.

DR. J. B. HUBER will speak on "The Prevention of Tuberculosis" and suggest methods for practical aid by the public.

JOSEPHINE REDDING, *Secretary.*

February Meeting. Subject—"The People's Institute"

At the regular monthly meeting in February, Professor Charles Sprague-Smith, of the People's Institute, was the speaker, and he presented a detailed account of the plan and scope of the important civic movement of which he has been the inspiration and capable administrator since its inception. Very few persons realize the educational influence exerted by the People's Institute. The public generally appreciates the value of the efforts made by the Board of Education to instruct adult audiences through the lecture courses that are given for several months every year, but this is at best but a fragmentary and desultory method which can hardly be called education, and it is not to be mentioned in the same class as the more thorough and enlightened methods pursued by Director Sprague-Smith, for he is engaged in the vital work of building citizens out of such heterogeneous and largely unlikely material as the European peasant, who comes in swarms to this country, bringing along with him old world more or less worn-out theories of life and of government. As the *Evening Post* has very truly said, the People's Institute is engaged in the process of Americanizing the immigrant. And this, too, through methods pursued by no other organization, except possibly the Educational Alliance which, although it performs a similar civic service, limits its operations mainly to foreign children. One may totally disagree with Director Sprague-Smith's ideal of society—equality, liberty, democracy—but there can be no gainsaying that as between such educational means as he employs for the adult foreigner, and the partisan newspaper, the local boss and heelers, the party political meeting (the adult foreigner's only other means of civic education), there can be no question as to which is preferable. The People's Institute provides a very generous supply of lectures, and not alone on the platform of Cooper Union do distinguished experts appear several times a week, but in local neighborhood clubs of the Institute public questions are intelligently discussed. The effort is to train this largely immigrant contingent along the plane of public righteousness.

The People's Institute stands for ethics quite as much as any church, and it enforces its teachings much more effectively than most churches. It presents the anomaly regularly on Sunday evening at Cooper Union of audiences of seven

hundred or more men, following with respectful attention the addresses of the different clergymen and ethical teachers whom the Director engages to address them, the speakers including men like the Reverends Van Dyke, Slicer and Lyman Abbott. The writer of this article can testify that on a certain Sunday evening a very large audience of People's Institute members listened respectfully for nearly one and three-quarters hours to Mr. Talcott Williams, of Philadelphia, who urged upon his hearers the obligation we are all under to pass on to future generations the best in ethics, literature, art, social science, etc., that we inherit or that is developed in our lifetime. There were no rhetorical fireworks, nor amusing anecdotes to relieve the seriousness of the subject, and yet that audience remained quietly to the end, and at the close of the address when the meeting was thrown open for discussion, those present, by their comments and criticisms, showed they had carefully and intelligently followed the speaker.

Again is the statement made that one need not accept Director Sprague-Smith's social and political platform, but it is impossible for any one who observes even superficially the practical workings of the People's Institute not to realize that it is performing a vital civic work.

Among the points touched upon by Director Smith in his address was that the Institute had now won the confidence of law-makers in both Albany and Washington, being recognized as the mouthpiece of a considerable number of citizens in this municipality. A noted case in point where this Institute was largely instrumental in protecting the city's interests was the killing of railway grab bills in Albany that had passed both Assembly and Senate. The activities of the Institute may be described as incessant and they cover every interest that concerns development into a citizenship that shall not alone worthily maintain the best traditions of the past but shall advance the modern ideal.

Report of President as Chairman of Organization and Affiliation

The President reports that she is greatly crippled by the refusal of members to act as Chairmen; Legislative, Health, Police and Streets all being headless, and the members declining to hold meetings unless they are provided with a Chair by the President.

The President thinks that the Directors should be ready to assume chairmanships; that if our Directors are not willing to take responsibilities and give extra time, it is not to be expected that other women will.

That she has received two requests this month to make a District Chairman, Chairman of Streets; the two positions are utterly incompatible, even if both were paid, as the incumbent would have to give six hours a day to the performance of duty. No woman who held both offices could do justice to either.

That Mrs. Aldrich has secured two good new members for the Legislative Committee; but that, of course, no new member can be asked to become Chair.

That the Organization Committee cannot become effective without a paid organizer. That no one has even been willing to serve on the Committee with Mrs. Aldrich in the last three years, to secure members and organize meetings. That after conference with Miss Dodge, Mrs. Aldrich has tried to secure a paid organizer, but so far without success. Such a person would meet requests for a speaker, which now go begging.

That as against the poor condition of Health, Legislative Streets, Parks and Police Committees, we can set this year, Publication, Tenements, Research, Ice-Water and Aldermanic.

That eleven districts hold regular meetings and represent many local subcommittees.

Committees

Aldermanic

We now have representatives from nearly every Local District in Manhattan and the Bronx organized in the League. We have taken up the matter of the new codification of the City Ordinances and have communicated with the Chairman of the Committee on Ordinances of the Board of Aldermen, asking for a copy of the new codification and permission to attend the meetings of the committee.

The Committee investigated the matter of the Aldermen's attack on the excellent men selected for the "Building Code Revision Committee," and wrote a strong letter in their favor to Alderman Grifenhagen.

Respectfully submitted,

H. de Peyster,
Chairman.

Ice-water Fountain Committee

At a meeting held last month it was voted that an entertainment to raise money for our spring work be given in March.

Voted that the fountains be opened earlier in the season and to run without ice until warm weather—the time of their usefulness thus being extended to about seven months.

Voted to have one thousand circulars printed for distribution this spring.

The Report of the Municipal League on Fountains was read and useful suggestions made.

It was voted that the Committee meet every two weeks.

Mary L. Holmes,
Secretary.

House

As the result of many letters addressed to the owners in regard to the lumber and trash stored in the cellar of 19 East Twenty-sixth Street the Chairman at length came into direct communication with the executor of the O'Brien estate, and after a personal inspection by him men were set to work to clear the cellar of rubbish. Through the thoughtfulness of the Assistant Secretary the owner, at the time of his visit, was presented with a bill for fixing a drain in the yard, which he paid. A serious leak in the roof necessitated the employing of an extra man to shovel the heavy fall of snow from both roofs. The bills for the renting of the Assembly Rooms have for the most part been paid very promptly and there is every reason to believe that this will be a very profitable source of income to the League in the future.

Mrs. James M. Lawton has been appointed chairman of the House Committee by the Chairman of Central Committee, Miss Van Amridge, resigning.

Monthly Report of Local Improvement Branches

Two Meetings.—The thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth regular meetings of the General Committee of the Morrisania Local Improvement District Branch have been held since our latest report.

For our Division at Kingsbridge, the report runs as follows:

A visit was made to Park Commissioner Berry for the purpose of urging upon him the adoption of our Park plans for Kingsbridge, and of a Parkway along Tibbet's Brook, running from the Harlem ship canal to the proposed new lake south of the Dutch Garden. The Tibbet's Brook Parkway is also advo-

cated by the Municipal Art Society, and we have been asked by this Society to find out the objections to this scheme which are being made by property owners and to insist that our aldermen bring the matter up in the local board. This we are doing. Further, that Miss Delafield had promised the city a bronze tablet to be placed on the Revolutionary Bridge, provided, of course, that the bridge is included by the city within its new park, and this gift was gracefully accepted by the Commissioner. Mrs. Campbell is still endeavoring to gather reliable information and the testimony of witnesses as to the conduct of the fire companies, although her complaints have been effective to this extent, that the personnel of the Riverdale Fire Company has been changed considerably for the better, and that the Fire Captain has ordered the flushing of every hydrant in Kingsbridge once a week as long as the frost continues.

Mrs. Campbell also reports that Highway Superintendent Bonner is clearing the sidewalks as well as the streets of Marble Hill with snowplows, and that he promises to do this in the future as well. She was also instrumental in having a waiting car stationed at the terminus of the Yonkers Broadway trolley line, which is kept heated, and in which a regular attendant is on duty. We are also making special efforts to prevent sewering in Tibbet's Brook.

As for our Division at University Heights, it is in a moribund state, due to the fact that the men's organization in that locality does such good work that there is little left for the women to undertake, but I hope to hold this Division together by organizing classes in the study of the city charter and city history.

Mrs. Fisk reports to me for Woodstock that since her complaint to the Prospect Avenue Station agent the steps and platforms are kept much cleaner; that she has also spoken to a "white angel" of the conditions of the street in front of her home, and that he was now, at her request, keeping the same immaculate, and that she has caused a dangerous hole where a cellar was being dug to be properly braced. She also made inquiries as to the law in regard to street obstruction, and expected to take up that matter in her neighborhood where much building is being done.

A correspondence was held with Street Commissioner Craven in which the Commissioner expressed a desire to meet a Committee of the League and to learn from this committee the needs of the Bronx. Two appointments were made with the Commissioner, but the weather on both days was so forbidding that it was finally decided to ask the Commissioner to postpone his visit until the snow had left the ground.

Miss Anderson, of the Woodstock Division, has been directing much of her energy toward ascertaining where the responsibility for the removal of snow from the sidewalks of empty lots should properly be located. She applied to the Street Cleaning Department, the Department of Highways, and the Police Department, and was told that this matter did not belong under any one of the above departments. A personal discussion with the Commissioner of Highways brought forth the following facts that, though there were no regulations in regard to the removal of snow from the sidewalks of empty lots, the matter belonged properly under the Department of Highways, and it was suggested that the Board of Aldermen be urged to pass an ordinance covering this matter. This the Committee, after applying to the City Club for full information as to the conduct of such matters in other cities, is preparing to do.

A new Division of the Morrisania Branch of the League has been formed in Spuyten Duyvil with Miss Lesley as Chairman, and with a membership of eight. Lively discussions were held on the possibilities of hastening the building of a viaduct from Marble Hill to Spuyten Duyvil; and also on the advisability of the building of private sewers on certain streets in the last-mentioned place. A letter was directed to Commissioner Darlington complaining of stray cows in

the neighborhood, and since the receipt of a reply to this complaint the cows have not been found out of bounds. Letters were also directed both to Commissioner Darlington and Commissioner Craven in regard to the regular dumping of garbage on private property, and in the immediate vicinity of the best residences of Spuyten Duyvil. Commissioner Craven promised to put an immediate stop to this nuisance as far as he was able, but no satisfaction could be obtained from Commissioner Darlington, who was asked to order the removal of the putrid matter already dumped. The matter will be pursued to the bitter end by our Spuyten Duyvil Committee.

Our Park Committee has secured from Commissioner Bingham a promise to protect as far as it lay in his power the beauty of trees and shrubbery on Moshulu Parkway.

The Civic League of the Bronx has made a request for specific facts relative to mal-administration in the Borough government, and we are now gathering material to present to the investigating committee of the Civic League.

JULIA L. D. LONGFELLOW,
Chairman.

Riverside

There is nothing very new to report. A delegation went to Albany at the request of the Chairman of the Law Committee of the West End Association, and appeared before the Cities Committee of the Senate. The bill for the placing of Broadway under the Department of Parks has passed the Assembly and the Senate.

Our Committee on Streets is planning certain work of investigation by which we hope to bring such evidence before Commissioner Craven as to spur him to greater activity. We cannot see why, granted the limitations under which he labors, he still cannot insist upon the work being done well and thoroughly as far as it goes. So many men are being paid, so many carts are carrying garbage and refuse away, so many men are sweeping the streets more or less effectively, and why this work, as far as it goes, is not done just as well as Colonel Waring did it, is what we should like to have Commissioner Craven tell us.

Miss Marion Peters is working with utmost vigor to establish the Waring Leagues, as the one-time Juvenile Leagues are henceforth to be called in memory of Colonel Waring. All readers of the *Tribune* have learned from the article in that paper of the League already started in Public School No. 165. One hundred and fifty boys are said to be interested in the work and it is to be carried on by the principal, David E. Gaddis. Two others are started in the Settlement work connected with St. Michael's Church. Miss Peters says that the work has been one of great difficulty owing to the want of enthusiasm of the people whom she has approached. The Rev. Mr. Lee of St. Michael's has taken the work up with great enthusiasm, interesting in it the ministers of the Baptist and Methodist churches of our neighborhood. As yet the work has been confined to the boys, though it is hoped soon to make headway with the girls as well.

As delegate to the University Settlement, I would report a desultory conversation lasting over two hours. There were present Mr. Hoguet of the Times Investigation Committee, Mr. McLean, Mr. White, Dr. Jane Robbins. Miss Farquarh and one other, name forgotten. Suggestions of an impractical nature were offered regarding a further investigation of streets, administration, etc., graft existing and general mismanagement. Commissioner Craven responded more or less satisfactorily to complaints and cleaner conditions exist in streets complained of. Final result: Recommendation: Co-operation with Corporation Counsel. He can bring civil suit, and has brought twenty-five, thus expediting punishment.

Chelsea

It is with a feeling of great encouragement that the Chairman of this Branch makes her January report. Twenty-five members were present at the meeting, which is by far the largest one we have had in many months.

By-laws were framed which we hope will make clear to the members and future officers their duties and relationship to the central organization. Delegates were appointed to the standing committees of the Women's Municipal League and committees formed for district work on street cleaning, park equipment, tenements and public schools. Miss Cushman and Mrs. Fred. Lamb were made a permanent Outlook Committee, whose duty shall be to keep our membership and meetings up to an agreed upon standard.

Our Branch sent a letter to one of the largest real estate agents in our district asking him to improve the condition of some of his tenements, and it is a pleasure to report that in response to our request he has noticeably cleared up and cleaned one entire block, for which we sent him a letter of thanks and asked him to co-operate with us still further.

Our Street Cleaning Committee has interviewed the section foremen and they now think the trouble is higher up. They report that the section foreman at Tenth Avenue and Twentieth Street is given seventeen carts, whereas formerly twenty-one were supplied. Commissioner Craven claims he is helpless for lack of funds.

The Rev. Mr. Paddock sent one of his tenement-house workers, who reported that the Chelsea tenements were ordinarily sanitary, but that those on the Chelsea Park site were inexpressibly filthy and immoral. They are being rapidly demolished and the Committee on Parks is instructed to hurry the clearing as much as possible. Mrs. Clarkson, who is one of Mr. Paddock's Tenement Committee, was glad to receive some of Mrs. French's printed matter to use as models.

HARRIET BACKUS,
Chairman.

Heights (Brooklyn)

In January a committee appointed by the President of the Women's Municipal League sent to the women of Brooklyn Heights a circular explaining the objects of the League and urging them to become members. At the January meeting the Committee reported that thirty-seven new names had been added to our membership roll. We hope for many more. The report of the probation officer was read and we were glad to learn that Mrs. Parks is to hold the position for another year. At this meeting we voted to contribute $25 toward her salary, as we did last year. This probation officer's salary is paid by the Women's Clubs of Brooklyn.

The members present were asked to volunteer as delegates to represent the League at a meeting with the Park Commissioner to protest against the delay in opening the Tillary Street playground and to call his attention to the disgraceful condition of the toilets in the city park.

The condition of the streets was commented upon as usual and one member gave an account of her interview with the local Superintendent of Street Cleaning, one result of which was that he requested all cases of neglect be reported directly to him at his address, 185 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn.

At the close of the business meeting we listened to an interesting talk by Miss Hunt of the Children's Department of the Brooklyn Public Library. The speaker described the rapid growth of the library and the methods by which the work is carried on. She was listened to with great interest and attention and a hearty vote of thanks was tendered her.

AUGUSTA WILLETS,
Recording Secretary.

Kip's Bay

As a result of the Tea held by the Branch at 19 East Twenty-sixth Street during the blizzard on February 4th, six new members have been enrolled.

The regular monthly meeting of the Branch was held at the home of its Chairman, Mrs. J. Noble Hayes, on February 12, at which two new committees were organized, those of Street Cleaning and Tenements. An interesting discussion was held, in which Miss Caldwell (who is to co-operate with the Chairman in the newly organized work with Tenements) told of her experiences in connection with that line of interest.

Miss Kendall and the Chairman are still working on Park Extension.

Respectfully submitted,
MRS. J. NOBLE HAYES,
Chairman.

Greenwich District

Greenwich District held its monthly meeting at Richmond Hill House, where a talk was given by one of the school visiting nurses of the Health Department on her work among the children. K. S. DAY.

Murray Hill

At its regular monthly meeting in February at the League's headquarters, the Treasurer reported balance in bank, $245.57; disbursements, $3.50. Miss Week reported black smoke nuisance for which the Interborough power-house is responsible. Other objects brought up were left for fuller discussion at a later meeting.

A. H. GREENLEAF,
Secretary.

An Entertainment in Behalf of Ice-water Fountains

A musicale by Miss Kitty Cheatham and Mrs. Edith Chapman Goold, who have generously given their services, will be held at the residence of the Misses Lane, 131 East Twenty-first Street, Gramercy Park, on Tuesday afternoon, March 19th, at 3.30 o'clock. The entertainment is for the purpose of raising money to place more ice-water fountains in the crowded parts of the city.

Tickets may be had of Miss Katharine Day, 28 Fifth Avenue, and of other members of the Committee. Committee—Miss Burnet, Miss Day, Mrs. T. M. Dillingham, Mrs. Clyde Folsom, Miss Holmes, Miss Holé, Mrs. Eugene Klaff, Miss Richards, Mrs. Herbert Stockton, Mrs. Edward Weidenfeld.

Request for Back Numbers of the Bulletin

The following issues of the BULLETIN are needed to complete the office files:

1902—April, July, September, October, November.
1903—August, September, October, December.
1904—August.
1905—January, February.

Will members of the League who have copies of the BULLETIN listed above, kindly send or bring them to the League headquarters at 19 East Twenty-sixth Street?

The Consumers' League
of the City of New York
Room 617, 105 East 22d Street

Mrs. Frederick Nathan, *President*
Miss Helen Phelps Stokes, *1st Vice-President.*
Mrs. Hugh Munroe Dewees, *2d Vice-President.*
Miss Alice H. Day, *Treasurer.*
Miss Anita Neilson, *Recording Secretary.*
Mrs. Geo. K. B. Wade, *Corresponding Secretary.*
Miss Pauline Goldmark, *Executive Secretary.*

Conditions of Labor for Women and Minors Endangered

The radical amendments of the New York Labor law proposed by the Prentice Bill, Assembly 79, have met with strong opposition on account of endangering the protection now afforded women and minors in factories. While acknowledging the good features of the bill, the Consumers' League takes especial exception to two important changes, viz., that a 66-hour week for women in certain industries is permitted, as well as unrestricted night work for boys from 16 to 18 years of age.

At present the maximum number of hours allowed by law for women working in factories is sixty a week. The change would permit as much as sixty-six hours labor during a period of six weeks in the year, ostensibly to meet the requirements of certain manufacturing interests which claim that at various seasons they must work for longer hours. Under this plan a girl might have the following working hours: Monday, twelve hours; Tuesday, twelve hours; Wednesday, twelve hours; Thursday, twelve hours; Friday, twelve hours; Saturday, idle. In addition the phrase "perishable, seasonable food products," in the manufacture of which sixty-six hours of labor is to be permitted, seems so loosely defined as to open the door to an evasion of the whole law.

Moreover, exceptions to the law, even if carefully specified, set a precedent endangering the whole restriction of hours. With a legal maximum for women as high as sixty hours a week, while for men the total number of hours is steadily progressing to a 48 or 54-hour week, it would seem neither too extreme nor radical to stand inflexibly opposed to any extension of the working hours for women in this State.

Even the proposed change does not satisfy the demands of manufacturers. At two recent public hearings before the Assembly Committee on Labor and Industries they have made open demands for further concessions. The candy manufacturers say they must have a *sixty-nine* hour week for *ten* weeks in the year, while the canners will content themselves with a sixty hour week for *ten* weeks, provided they are allowed to work for *fifteen* hours a day!

Among the expressions of strong disapproval of this measure a letter may be quoted from Dr. Abraham Jacobi, who says:

I wish you would mind one point, viz., that overstrain and exhaustion, though temporary, caused by long hours, cannot be corrected by the mere in-

termission of one or even two idle ways, in young women who are permanently overworked and underfed and exhibit their physical inferiority even to the lay observer. The parting or breaking of a rope or a chain caused by overtension cannot be corrected by time only. I feel as if the most powerful agency in your effort for shortening labor hours would be the personal demonstration of a few specimens of human kind such as I see daily, that have suffered or are constantly suffering from present conditions. Reports and theories go far, but the fagged out, exhausted, pale, bloodless, living individual who is to be the future citizen, wife or mother is more convincing. I beg of you spare no effort. What you do for the present, you accomplish for the future of the republic.

Dr. S. A. Knopf says:

I hope I can make you realize the gravity of the situation if I tell you that the passage of this bill would create conditions predisposing women and children to tuberculosis or making them nervous wrecks for life. Our Empire State should not be behind any State of the Union in the protection of women and children. If the Prentice bill should become a law, it would mean a humiliating backward step as compared with Massachusetts and other progressive States of the Union.

Most interesting in this connection is the program of the National Consumers' League, laid out at its recent annual meeting in Chicago, to devote its energies most particularly to an investigation of the standard of living of working women as a basis for future intelligent action.

The hours of labor for women and children, and the result of unrestricted hours of work upon health and vitality, as well as the minimum wage, wil be studied in co-operation with the kindred investigation of the United States Department of Commerce and Labor.

In no State have the hours of labor for women been shortened within recent years. In New York, the Prentice bill menaces the sixty hour law, and the highest court of the State has yet to speak on the validity of the prohibition of night work for women. Meanwhile the legal restriction of the hours of work for *men*, to an eight or nine hour day, progresses in various States from year to year.

Another labor bill, Assembly Bill No. 81, relative to the employment of women in laundries, deserves unqualified approval. "A laundry worked by steam or other mechanical power conducted in connection with a hotel, restaurant or transportation company shall be deemed a public laundry" and therefore subject to the labor law, according to this bill. This amendment has been framed to meet the difficulty of the Labor Commissioner in trying to enforce the provisions for hours of labor for women, ventilation, etc., within the past year in some of the large hotel laundries. The work is often carried on in a building at a distance from the hotel, and yet according to a ruling of the Attorney General, such establishments are not subject to the factory law as all other public laundries are.

As the conditions of work are often bad on account of long hours, night work and unwholesome atmosphere, the passage of this bill is greatly to be desired.

It will place all laundries run for gainful purposes under the labor law.

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

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WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. V. APRIL, 1907 No. 9

The regular Monthly Meeting will be held April 18th, at the Headquarters of the League, 19 East 26th Street.

The speaker on this occasion will be Judge Alfred E. Ommen, the subject being "The Criminal Court."

All members are urgently requested to be present.

JOSEPHINE REDDING, *Secretary.*

Murray Hill

The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held at the League's headquarters on Wednesday, March 13th. There were present Mrs. Wendell, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. Butterworth, Miss Week, Miss Greenleaf and Mrs. Isaac Vanderpoel. The minutes of the previous meeting were read. The treasurer reported $234.96 in the bank, with disbursements of $26.32. The subjects under discussion related to the cleaning of streets and the desirability of co-operation between the various departments — Police and Building departments especially. It was suggested by Mrs. Wendell that the chairmen of other Branches should ask members to send, in writing, desirable questions to be put to Commissioner Craven relating to street cleaning.

Respectfully submitted by
A. H. GREENLEAF,
Secretary.

Prospect Heights

At the February meeting of this Branch there was a report from the Committee on the Raymond Street Jail (which is one of the black spots in our district). They highly commended the Matron, Miss O'Grady, who hopes to become a probation officer later, which the Committee rather regret, as she is doing such good work where she is. The average of women prisoners is from 30 to 50; the smaller number at times is due to the fine work of probation officers. Negro and white women are jailed together, which is extremely bad, as the Negro women are depraved and use drugs and teach their use to the white women. The Woman's Department is quite clean, but the men's is filthy. The jail is very old, and has been condemned by the grand jury for thirty years. It lacks everything that is sanitary—light, air, washing facilities, good locks, and plumbing.

Five recommendations were made, and letters to Senators and Assemblymen and the Chairman of the Republican Committee have been sent, recommending that the control of the jail be taken out of the hands of the Sheriff, who has no money to spend on a single improvement (his hands being tied by red tape), and that the control be placed in the City Department of Correction which has accessible funds.

Letters have been sent to the Mayor, Comptroller and Borough President urging immediate appropriation by the

Board of Estimate of a sum sufficient to build a new jail, in accordance with the plans already approved by the Municipal Art Commission.

The same Committee reported in our March meeting a visit to the Sheriff, when he was requested to make a requisition for a separate van for women prisoners on the Coney Island route from that court to the Raymond Street Jail—as on at least one trip the Committee has positive proof of shocking abuses being perpetrated, and it strongly believes that similar abuses are often committed on these trips. What is desired is a separate van—one that is open at the back, and in which the police will ride. Often probation officers ride with the women as a means of protection to them, but that is not one of their duties and it is far from an agreeable task. They do it for the welfare of these miserable beings.

On the report of the March meeting of the Legislative Committee our representative strongly urged letters from members in our district endorsing the Prison Farm Bill.

At this meeting Miss Arthur and Miss Fried addressed the Branch, urging us to support a visitor for the women immigrants in Brooklyn. The question was carried over to the next meeting.

CAROLINE A. L. PRATT,
President.

Chelsea

The Recruiting Committee, composed of Mrs. Fred Lamb and Miss Cushman, did its work so well that this Branch at its February meeting had an attendance of forty, which we hope is a permanent condition, so that shortly it will be a case of "standing room only." The subject under consideration was the development and equipment of the park block bounded by Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eighth Streets and Ninth and Tenth Avenues, which was acquired from the city last summer.

Miss Kendall, of the Kip's Bay Branch, the Revs. Leighton Williams and Robert Paddock addressed the meeting, making it one of particular interest. Miss Kendall brought to our attention the best features of other parks, and the difficulties which we would encounter but must overcome. Mrs. Chas. Lamb sent a letter in which she asked the women of Chelsea to turn their attention to the proposed buildings to be placed along the river front from Fourteenth to Twenty-third Streets. Mrs. Weed and the Chairman were asked to interview the Commissioner of Docks at once in reference to this matter.

Later, these members upon calling upon him, found the Commissioner had been in this department twenty-five years and was master of his branch, and that he is working along intelligent public-spirited lines. He is painstaking and willing to listen to any reasonable suggestion. He proposed to make us a map and send his plans to us in detail, asking that we suggest any improvement. In making suggestions we were asked to remember that we were developing New York as the great commercial port of the country, and our water-front as part of that whole rather than as merely part of Chelsea as a neighborhood. The Commissioner also told us that 200 to 440 feet had been set aside as park space at Twenty-third to Twenty-fourth Streets, facing the ferries. A path through this park has been reserved for a thoroughfare. The Commissioner asked us to consider this park space and write him any suggestion or recommendation concerning it.

HARRIET BACKUS.

Greenwich

At the March meeting of this Branch, held at Richmond Hill House, Thursday, March 21, at 3:30, a paper was read on "Municipal Housing in England."

K. S. DAY,
Chairman.

Riverside

Reports continued activity in the formation of the Waring Leagues. This is extremely difficult work as it is new and the women interested are themselves learning the best and most efficacious methods of carrying on the work. It has been determined to concentrate all efforts on those Leagues started in connection with St. Michael's Church, as the members feel it is wiser to do a small work well than to attain less satisfactory results with larger attempts.

The bill placing the Parkways on Broadway under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks has passed the Legislature in Albany and will now be pressed forward with all possible haste here in New York, and by July we hope that Broadway will begin to show the effect of our labors.

The condition of the streets continues to be our chief concern. Not by any means for our district alone, but far more for the crowded districts of the East Side where there seems to be every danger of disease developing. The Chairman, however, feels that the efforts of her committees have had some effect as there are indications of greater activity on the part of the collectors of ashes and garbage and a slight degree of improvement in efficiency. A certain street covered with filthy snow was scraped by two or three men who used the large shovel-like scrapers employed on asphalt, and immediately after they had finished the carts came through the same street to take away the piled up filth.

This Branch would again urge the League to take up the matter of clean streets in a large way. Whatever Mr. Craven may say to the contrary inexcusable carelessness and utter want of *esprit de corps* are, in the opinion of many, two real and serious causes of the present filthy conditions, and as it takes neither more men nor more money to compel the employees of the Department to be thorough in their methods and to take a pride in their work, any effort that would accomplish the desirable ends should be insisted upon. Some years ago a citizen heard some street-cleaners discussing a comrade. They were unanimous in his praise and so enthusiastic that the listener was interested to ascertain the cause of their approbation. "Why," said one of the men in reply to a question, "no one on the force could sweep around a lamp-post better than he." The story is often quoted, but I fear there are few men on the force today who would be in any way entitled either to their comrade's or the public's praise.

This Branch also reports that the inner gates on the cars on Broadway have been opened, making it possible to use the ends of the parkways as isles of safety. This needed reform was accomplished through the active work of Mrs. Longfellow.

A. F. MacDougal.

Combined Report of the Director and Secretary of the Research Department for the Month of February

The office work has been confined chiefly to legislative matters. Only one case has been brought before the Commissioner of Licenses but apparently with little success beyond the return of the fee to the poor immigrant.

So far as the legislative work is concerned we have turned over to the various legislative committees interested our endorsement of the bills taken up at the last meeting. Material with reference to the Teachers' Bill and the Cobb Marriage Bill was given out to the newspapers. The *Tribune* especially gave us considerable space.

The direction of the investigation of the so-called "banks" has been done by this office, and is the subject of a separate report by Miss Kellor.

The co-operation of the Italian and Hungarian Consuls and that of the District Attorney's office, together with

the help of the counsel for the Legal Aid Society have been secured in behalf of the two measures, namely, the shipping agency and banking bills.

The Prevention of Consumption

The March regular meeting of the League was addressed by Dr. John B. Huber, a report of whose admirable lecture follows:

The mortality due to this disease is about one in seven during the periods between infancy and old age. But between adolescence and maturity—the years when young men and women should have their lives before them, when husbands should be strong to work for and maintain their families, when wives should be strong to rear their children, during the years when the world's work must be done, from the fifteenth to the forty-fifth year, consumption takes every third or fourth life among whites, and every other life among negroes. And one must consider not only this death rate, but the long periods—months and years—of suffering which it connotes for each case, the many months and years of sickness endured by those who have the good fortune to recover, the unhappiness visited upon the families and friends of the consumptive, the distress and oftentimes poverty which they must endure by reason of his wage loss and the expense of his illness. The purely economic loss by consumption to the United States has been computed at $330,000,000 a year.

Consumption is a communicable, not a contagious, disease in the usual sense, and one may live his whole life with the consumptive and not contract the disease if he will observe very elementary rules of prevention. There is then no occasion for the unchristian *phthesiophobia* or fear of consumption so frequently manifested nowadays, by which the distress of the sensitive consumptive is made much the more acute.

NO OCCASION FOR HYSTERICAL FEAR.

Consumption has two causes. The specific cause—the tubercle bacillus, a vegetable parasite which was discovered by Koch, and the predisposing cause. A healthy body is one that is not predisposed; it is able to resist the implantation of the germs, so that consumption is not contracted. And the contact even of a predisposed organism with the germ must be frequent, prolonged and intimate if an implantation of the germ is followed by inflammation resulting in tubercle formation; whence the term tuberculosis, which is practically synonymous with consumption or phthisis. Tubercles may develop in any part of the body: in the lungs (chiefly in adults); in the joints and glands (chiefly in children); in any tissue or organ there may be tubercle formation.

The germ enters the body either by inhalation or by ingesting food containing the bacillus, or rarely by inoculation through cuts and wounds.

THOSE LIKELY TO BECOME VICTIMS.

Any agency which enervates or weakens the system is a predisposition. Among such are: A tendency to tuberculosis, which may be transmitted by the parents. This tendency may be overcome and the body made successfully resistant to the infection. The disease itself is not hereditary, for the simple reason that the parents cannot, practically speaking, transmit the germ to their offspring. During convalescence from fever and exhausting diseases one may become predisposed, especially is this the case with regard to pleurisy and pneumonia. "Neglected colds" furnish perhaps the most frequent predispositions to consumption. Alcoholism is found to have been a factor among perhaps half the advanced male consumptives. Alcoholism lays the foundation for consumption, say the French. Dangerous trades, especially those in which much metal, stone and fibre dust must be breathed are very predisposing.

Anæmic children, and those having unhealthy upper air passages (catarrhs, enlarged tonsils, adenoids),

if not attended to, become mouth breathers, starved for oxygen, and such children with most painful frequency become consumptive in adolescence. Tobacco, by irritating sensitive mucous membranes in the nose, throat and bronchi, furnishes a predisposing factor. The most potent factor of all predispositions is poverty, with all its connotations—starvation (or poor innutritious, "embalmed' or unsuitable food), exhaustion, uncleanliness, woman and child labor, overcrowding (by which the victim is constantly rebreathing his own poisonous exhalations and those of his family and his fellow lodgers), dark rooms, deficient ventilation, lack of sunshine, bad drainage and other unsanitary conditions.

RULES FOR PREVENTION.

From this consideration of the disease itself the very simple rules of prevention against consumption will logically be deduced:

1. The bacillus is conveyed from human being to human being practically only by means of the sputum. Naturally, then, we must guard against the dissemination of the bacillus in the sputum. The advanced consumptive coughs up and spits out some seven billions of these bacilli in twenty-four hours. The consumptive then must not spit promiscuously. On the thoroughfares he must spit only in the gutter; here the danger is least because the bacillus is killed and destroyed by the fresh air and sunshine, the most powerful of disinfectants. Next, it is most important that spitting should be avoided in such enclosures as vehicles, ferries, theatres, meeting halls and churches, which are, however, occupied by the individual for but short periods of time. But most important, indiscriminate spitting (save in spittoons containing water) should be absolutely interdicted in the home and the workshop. Such enclosures are easily infected, and under such circumstances consumption gleans an enormous percentage of its dreadful harvest. Many contrivances (such as pocket spit-cups made of cardboard) are at hand which the consumptive can use and burn at the end of the day, so that with this destruction of the bacilli the danger of human transmission is rendered almost nil.

2. Next, impure food must be guarded against—especially the milk and the meat of tuberculous animals. With regard to milk much earnest discussion has recently taken place without resulting thus far in concerted conclusions. Until definite plans obtain Pasteurization of milk the wholesomeness of which is now assured should be made a routine domestic function. It is very easy to heat such milk for from twenty to thirty minutes at 165 degs. F. With regard to the meats of tuberculous cattle, none of us would care to eat such meat, nor should we wish that any such be sold to our fellows for food. But legitimate economic reasons compel the following considerations: The meat of any animal which has suffered general tuberculosis of practically all its organs and tissues must, of course, be absolutely interdicted as food. Corvet of Berlin has, however, wisely differentiated between such meat and that of cattle in which but one or two organs are found diseased; in the latter case the musculature, which is the portion from which our steaks and chops are cut, contains no tubercles. (The musculature is perhaps the last part of the animal to be infected). So such meats may, when cut into regulated thicknesses and thoroughly cooked, be eaten as food without danger. Such organs as the liver and kidneys should not be eaten except it is absolutely certain the animal was healthy.

CONDITIONS THAT BREED TUBERCULOSIS.

Unhealthful tenements furnish most consumptive victims, as anyone may satisfy himself by an examination of "lung block" diagrams. Wherefore the patriotic citizen should most jeal-

ously guard the present Tenement House Law and fight the annual attempts by unscrupulous and mercenary people to have this law emasculated. And for the charitably minded who are sufficiently affluent there is no better text than "Philanthropy with four per cent"; a most wholesome manner of investment, by which decent homes may be assured the dignified poor, while the investor benefits somewhat by a most humane and honorable business transaction. Such charity carries with it no curse.

The alcohol problem is, as we have seen, a very vital one with regard to consumption. Many assume that all men addicted to alcohol are vicious and bad. Such is by no means the fact in perhaps the majority of cases. Alcohol is a stimulant, and many poor wretches who are exhausted in the brutal and oftentimes wolf-like battle of life know of no better way to key up their tired bodies for the work of the day than to take alcohol. This they do very largely before breakfast so that they may be able to do their day's work. They know of no better way. Very often their wives do not or cannot cook a decent breakfast for them; it is incontestably true that bad cooking drives many a man to drink.

Dispensaries and sanatoria for consumptives are invaluable both as offering the best means of cure and from the point of view of prevention, very important in educating the patient concerning the simple principles of prophylaxis. The sanatoria, in particular, serve at least three excellent purposes: the patient is in the best possible circumstances for a cure; while in the sanatorium he is not infecting his family, his fellow workmen and his community; he is made to take on habits of cleanliness so that when he returns in good health he becomes an exponent to others of hygienic and sanitary principles. But only the really destitute should be taken care of by charitable dispensaries and sanatoria. These three devices if they were carried to logical conclusions would make consumption as rare a disease as smallpox, at least.

THE PREVENTIVE MOTTO.

No spit—no consumption.
Pure food, especially milk.
Slumless cities.

Morrisania

From Kingsbridge it was reported that Supt. Bonner had cleared the sidewalks, as well as the streets, of snow with ploughs, and that he had expressed his intention to continue the method after each storm.

The members of this Branch at Kingsbridge are actively urging better conditions in regard to the removal of garbage and ashes. At the present time the employment of one wagon divided into two—one half for ashes and the other garbage—is ineffective. the whole load being many times employed in the filling of vacant property.

The truant question was being investigated and there is on foot a strong appeal for an evening school in this vicinity. The chief handicap to this, however, would be the difficulty in securing teachers.

From Woodstock the report shows that the Fountain money has been obtained in the sum of $70, and that various subscriptions and entertainments are on foot to augment the amount already in hand, so that a handsome fountain may be erected in the near future. The three appointments with Commissioner Craven to inspect the condition of the streets were postponed until more favorable weather prevailed.

In Spuyten Duyvil the garbage has been partially remedied. The question arose of the law requiring garbage wagons to be covered, and while it existed it was conceded that it was not duly enforced. In Brooklyn cars are being used for its removal, which means that about twenty ordinary loads are managed in one trolley car at a time.

The question of the sewer on Kappock Street is being agitated.

Favorable results have been obtained in Inwood from the appeal for better garbage conditions made to the Commissioner, since the latter has assigned it as a duty for the Superintendent.

A letter has been received from the Hudson Fulton Commission in regard to the Park at the north end of the Island, conveying the wish that the members of this division co-operate in any way possible.

The Park Committee interested in the stagnant pool just north of Moshulu Parkway at the easterly side of its intersection with Jerome Avenue is pleased to report that the suggestion made to Commissioner Berry to grade and fill in this locality resulted in a letter from the Commissioner to the effect that he was considering the advisability of converting the swamp land into a small pond or water course, or else filling in this spot, and that he has already conferred with a landscape architect about the matter. When good weather permits the desired step will be taken to make the improvement.

In regard to the want of police protection on the Parkway, Commissioner Bingham replied that although the police force was too small to cope with the problem laid upon it, he would give the matter careful attention.

A motion was passed that the whole Branch take up the question of expectoration and the carrying of lighted cigars into public conveyances. It was suggested that the Board of Health be notified through Dr. Darlington of the former nuisance, and that the latter be taken up through Mr. Shonts—both practices being on the increase and of great danger to the health of the traveling public.

A letter was received from the Scenic and Historic Preservation Society stating that a commission had been formed at the suggestion of the society to inquire into the possibilities of including the Bronx River and its littoral in a Parkway, and this matter is now being studied as to the advisability of such a proposition.

JULIA D. LONGFELLOW.

Committees

Ice-water Fountain one met at the residence of Mrs. Dillingham, Monday, April 1, 1907. Present, Mrs. Bokkelein, Mrs. Folsom, Mrs. Freitag, Miss Holt, Mrs. Dillingham, Miss Holmes and Mrs. Nevins.

The minutes of the last meetings were read and approved and Mrs. Dillingham reported the success of the entertainment arranged by the Committee for the benefit of the fund. The sale of tickets amounted to $241, expenses $34. Miss Lane contributed a check for $175 for a new fountain, this coming also through the work becoming known to her by the entertainment, so that the entire result of the concert after costs had been paid, was about $382. The Treasurer reported a letter from Mrs. W. E. Dodge and Miss Grace Dodge, each enclosing a check for $100, for the maintenance of their fountains.

The Secretary was asked to inquire from the American Ice Company if it would give us special rates if eight or ten fountains were each supplied by them with one thousand pounds of ice per week.

The plumber who does all the necessary work for the Committee was present at the meeting and explained a slight change in the construction of the fountains, which he proposed making to curtail the expense.

Miss Nevins, from the College Settlement, was also present. She complained of the annoyance of the wet pavements where the fountains are, and suggested as a remedy a larger basin for each fountain. It was decided to try this experiment for the College Settlement fountain, and the plumber was requested to order larger

bowls for the two new fountains which are the result of the funds raised by the entertainment, together with Miss Lane's gift. These enable the Committee to place one at the Salvation Army Headquarters and one at the Florence Crittenden Mission.

MARY L. HOLMES,
Secretary.

To the Friends of Municipal Reform:

The Woman's Municipal League requires at least one thousand dollars to carry on the work of the Central Committee for the summer. As none of the officers of the League receives any salary, the funds subscribed are directly applied to the practical work of municipal betterment. Small as well as large contributions will be welcomed. These should be sent to Miss Catharine Leverich, Treasurer of Woman's Municipal League, 19 East 26th Street.

Street Cleaning

The Ivins Committee gave out in its report this pregnant opinion: "That the Department only needs to enforce its own rules, and to be properly administered in order to achieve its best standard. In the tenement house districts there should be a more frequent collection of garbage, and your Committee has been and is particularly interested in the suggestion that an experiment be made in some lower East Side district in the removal of waste between midnight and dawn for the purpose of determining the greater value, if any, of such a system.

THE STREET-CLEANING CRUSADE.

Several of the District Chairmen having expressed a desire that the League, as an organization, should take up the practical consideration of this great reform; it seems desirable therefore, since a comprehensive crusade is thus contemplated, that all members of the League be informed of at least some of the recommendations made by what is known technically as the Special Committee of the Board of Aldermen (1906), but more familiarly as the Ivins Investigating Committee. The report of this Committee is an exhaustive one, and covers all departments of the Street Cleaning Department. As many of the recommendations (which number twenty-two), such as the purchase of horses, the discharge of employees, are not included in the scope of the proposed League campaign, only those recommendations bearing on the collection and disposal of refuse and snow will be here given unless special requests for publication of all of the recommendations are received. Sixth specific recommendation: That the present system of snow removal, which showed a loss to the city of over one million dollars in a single season, be abandoned, and that contracts be let upon the basis of payment of snow actually removed, and not otherwise.

Seventh—That immediate steps be taken to put the city in a position where it shall not be dependent upon the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company after the expiration of the present contract for final disposition of ashes and rubbish in the Borough of Brooklyn.

Eighth—That all ashes, rubbish and sweepings be hereafter used for the purpose of making public lands, for account of the city, which will result to the city in the creation of an asset of at least a million dollars a year in the next twenty years.

Ninth—That the contracts with the New York Sanitary Utilization Company be terminated at the earliest practicable date, and that the city remove and render its own product of garbage.

Tenth—That no picking or culling of rubbish be permitted at the docks

in Manhattan and The Bronx, or at the receiving stations in Brooklyn.

Eleventh—That the contract with the American Railway Traffic Company be enforced without delay as to the erection of proper receiving structures, the picking of rubbish at the receiving stations and the removal by night; and that, failing prompt compliance on the part of the company, the contract be cancelled.

Twelfth—That a proper proposal for a contract for the removal of rubbish from Manhattan and The Bronx, and its sorting and treatment outside of the thickly-inhabited part of the city, be at once prepared and advertised.

Seventeenth—That all dumping of ashes and street dirt at sea be discontinued and the Commissioner be prohibited from making deliveries to others, to be dumped at sea.

Eighteenth — That the necessary measures be taken to prevent the payment by the Department of Street Cleaning for the right of dumping at city piers of sums largely in excess of the rental paid to the city by the lessees of the piers and docks.

Nineteenth — That the Commissioner of Street Cleaning be required to publish annually a full report of the operations of the Department, which shall be so prepared as to supply, not only the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, but the public generally, with a true, intelligible statement of the expenditure and accomplishment of the Department in the fullest detail.

Twentieth—That the Commissioner of Street Cleaning be held to a stricter accountability for the cleanliness of the streets, particularly in the tenement districts of the city.

Twenty-first—That the incinerator at Delancey Street be abandoned, unless the Commissioner shall proceed to utilize the power now produced by the plant, but which is now going to waste at the rate of 250 horse-power per hour for twenty-four hours in each day, and unless the plant be made self-supporting and be so conducted as not to constitute a public nuisance.

Twenty-second—That the Mayor, or the Board of Estimate and Apportionment appoint a special committee of trained business men and scientific experts to investigate and report upon the best methods of final disposition under municipal management, so that the city itself shall reap the sole benefit of the valuable asset it possesses in its annual product of ashes, sweepings, rubbish and garbage, and so reduce the net cost of the department to the city.

New York's Milk Supply

The intention originally was to publish in this issue of the BULLETIN a short history of the campaign for pure milk (in which the Woman's Municipal League has borne an important part), as it was the general opinion that the question would have been settled in the early part of this month. The appointment on April 2, however, of a new commission, by Mayor McClellan, which is independent of both the Aldermanic and the Board of Health Milk Commissions, has prolonged the investigation so that at this writing no definite statement in regard to the final result of the winter's milk agitation is possible. The Mayor's formal statement as to his reasons for appointing the Commission was:

> In view of the recent discussion on the subject of New York City's milk supply, I have to-day, on my own responsibility, and with a view to settling authoritatively this very important matter, appointed a commission of five members to look thoroughly into the entire subject and recommend what steps, if any, are necessary to insure the city an abundant supply of absolutely pure milk. I have been fortunate enough to secure the consent of the following men to serve on this commission:
>
> Joseph D. Bryant, M.D., former president of the Board of Health; T. Mitchell Prudden, M.D., bacteriologist; Rowland G. Freeman, M.D., milk expert, and L. Emmett Holt, M.D., and Abraham Jacobi, M.D., specialists in the diseases of children.

Among the members of the Com-

mission will be noticed the name of Dr. Rowland G. Freeman, who has been one of the physicians to contribute very valuable data and suggestions to the milk discussion that have gone far toward enlightening the general public as to the perils of an impure milk supply. Unlike many able men who have taken part in the agitation, Dr. Freeman has not criticised the Health Department, a fact that is here made prominent, as Dr. Freeman is of the opinion that readers of the BULLETIN may gather a different impression from a reference to his utterances in the February issue. It is encouraging that such well-qualified professionals as Dr. Freeman and the other able men on the Committee have consented to serve the Mayor and the municipality on this important matter.

Shut-in Society Exhibit

Visitors to the headquarters of the Woman's Municipal League are asked to inspect the exhibit of handicraft, the work of those who are shut away from the active interests of life. The pathos of their lives is rendered additionally intense usually by lack of means.

ASSEMBLY ROOM

of

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

19 East 26th Street

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of the City of New York
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Mrs. Frederick Nathan, *President*
Miss Helen Phelps Stokes, *1st Vice-President.*
Mrs. Hugh Munroe Dewees, *2d Vice-President.*
Miss Alice H. Day, *Treasurer.*
Miss Anita Neilson, *Recording Secretary.*
Mrs. Geo. K. B. Wade, *Corresponding Secretary.*
Miss Pauline Goldmark, *Executive Secretary.*

A BILL TO IMPROVE
Conditions of Labor of Women and Children in Mercantile Establishments

SENATE BILL 1105—DAVIS
ASSEMBLY BILL 1738—HOOPER

This important bill has been introduced at the instance of the friends of women and children, led by the Consumers' League and the New York Child Labor Committee, with the hearty endorsement of Commissioner of Labor Sherman. It seeks to remove some of the injustices of the present law and to improve the condition of these workers.

At the present time the laws governing the labor of women and children in mercantile establishments are far below the standard established in factories and far below the proper standard, with the result that there is unfair discrimination and serious difficulty in enforcing the Factory Law. It is obvious that the enforcement of all the labor laws, especially child labor provisions, should be uniform throughout the State.

This bill would prevent all women in mercantile establishment from being compelled to work more than sixty hours in any one week. (At the present time this limitation applies only to women under twenty-one years of age.) The most important feature of the bill is that it would prevent young girls from being worked until one and two o'clock in the morning during the Christmas rush, as has often been done. At the present time girls of sixteen and upwards may, if desired, be worked all night, so far as the law is concerned.

The bill also makes other distinct advances in the law and secures its enforcement in New York City and Buffalo by the State Department of Labor, instead of by the local Health Departments, as at present. It is apparent to everyone that the Department of Health is not, and can not be, the appropriate agency for the enforcement of a labor law, and it has not been possible for the Department of Health in New York City, with its manifold other important duties, to give to the present law the attention that is necessary to secure satisfactory results. The proposed transfer of administrative jurisdiction has the approval of the present Health Commissioner, Dr. Darlington. The bill is in every way an advance over present conditions and in line with the present sentiment of the community relative to the conditions of labor of women and children.

Under the present mercantile law the limits of the working day are 7 A. M. till 10 P. M. except on Saturdays, and from December 15th to January 1st, when *no restriction of hours whatever* is in force. The proposed amendment establishes the 60 hour week and 10 P. M. as the closing hour throughout the year. The importance of this change during the *Christmas season,* which has become a time of intolerable overwork and fatigue for thousands of working girls

cannot be overestimated. It has been too long a reproach to the community that all protection of the law is deliberately removed from these young workers at the most taxing period of the year. Is it not time to provide that the Christmas festival shall cease to mean for the workers unlimited hours and consequent menace to health?

Hearings were held on this bill before both Senate and Assembly Committee on Wednesday, April 10th, when important delegations from New York philanthropic organizations were present to support the bills. Emphatic opposition to the measure was expressed by the retail merchants of New York and Buffalo, on grounds of self-interest.

The Page Child Labor bill, in which the Consumers' League has also been deeply interested, has now passed both branches of the legislature and awaits the Governor's signature. This bill not only provides an 8-hour day for all children under 16 years in factories, but it requires that these hours fall between 8 A.M. and 5 P.M. This enactment places New York ahead of all other States in protecting children from overwork in factories.

Another child labor bill, Assembly 2014—Hooper, now pending in the Assembly, has been introduced to amend the present "newsboy law" which was passed four years ago to protect young children who sell papers on the street. Investigation shows that regulation is necessary, since the trade is found to be ruining—physically, mentally, and morally—so many of the boys who sell during the day and night. Life on the street completely demoralizes the newsboys. Many of them are 10 years or even younger.

These are the results of several newsboy investigations by the New York Child Labor Committee. This winter a study was made of about 800 boys on the street, 600 newsboys now confined in reformatories, 200 truants, and 100 homes of newsboys.

Those who have had intimate knowledge of newsboys approve the age limit of 12 years (an age two years younger than that at which boys are allowed to work at all other regulated employments in this State).

The reason for the failure of the first newsboy law is obvious. It provides that the *schools* shall issue to boys between 10 and 14 years a license and badge, allowing them to sell until 10 P.M., but it gives to the *police* the authority to enforce this law. A trial of four years has shown that the police cannot and will not arrest small newsboys for selling under age or without badges. It is now proposed that boys should not be arrested at once, but that as a proper penalty such boys should be deprived of their badges. Power to issue or to withhold the badge should in the future be a valuable reinforcement of the teacher's authority; for in the proposed law, the principal of the school is to recommend the granting, refusing, or revoking of licenses, as the case may be. Truant officers, specially provided if necessary, are to warn offenders on the streets, and if need be, in the last resort, to arrest them.

The object of this law is not to prohibit boys from selling papers, but so wisely to regulate the trade that its dangers shall be minimized.

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

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WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. V. MAY, 1907 No. 10

The regular public Monthly Meeting of the Woman's Municipal League will be held on Thursday, May 16, at four p.m., at the Headquarters of the League, 19 East 26th Street.

Members and their friends are cordially requested to be present.

The speakers on this occasion will be Robert L. Hoguet, Dr. Bayles and others. The subject, "Street Cleaning."

JOSEPHINE REDDING, *Secretary.*

The Criminal Courts

One of the most interesting talks of this season was delivered by Judge Alfred E. Ommen at the monthly meeting of the League for April. What particularly impressed the audience was the tenderness with which the speaker regards the weak and the erring members of the community and his insistence that the magistrates (police court judges) ought to be men of great heart as well as of intelligence and discrimination. "One big-souled city magistrate can do more good than all the charitable organizations in New York," was one of the speaker's statements. Some startling statistics were given as, for example, the estimate that the enormous number of 140,000, cases passes annually before the eighty city magistrates of Greater New York. Among the most pathetic experiences that magistrates witness is the coming into court in the late autumn of every year of men who come to ask to be sent away to jail for the winter. Judge Ommen said that when he was on the bench he had as many as five hundred such human derelicts apply to him. Hope, friends, and nerve all gone, these men are willing to go to jail for food and a bed. Occasionally the eye of a great-hearted magistrate will single out a man in whom hope is not wholly dead, and such an one Judge Ommen in the midst of the exacting duties of a city magistrate—there being brought before him 80 to 120 arraignments daily—took time to try and save. "I used to have telephone communication with certain express and other companies, and when a man like that came before me I'd say, 'If I get you a job will you brace up and behave yourself?' Generally he'd say, 'Yes, sir.' I'd get some company to take him on as driver or something of the kind, and about 50 per cent of the men thus given work did well. They seemed to get their nerve back."

"The fact that a city magistrate has 'original jurisdiction' gives him great responsibility. He can ruin a young fellow at the beginning of his career, or maybe set him in the right way again. Take a boy of twenty-two, employed in some shop; somebody gives him a tip on the races; he takes $2 from his employer's till, and, of course, his employer comes around on that day and discovers it. He is arrested. Now, which is better—to send that boy to jail, or to say to him: 'You fell, for a minute, but we'll give you another chance. Brace up. Don't do it again'?

"Or, take a girl who thinks the sealskin and diamonds of the girl in the next block are better than the $5 a week she gets in a department store. She falls. Now, that is where the woman probation officer's work comes in. She gets that girl a place in some family, goes to see her, watches over her till she is set going in the straight path again. Every magistrate has one male probation officer. A mother whose big boy becomes unmanageable can appeal to a magistrate, who puts him in the probation officer's charge. This officer keeps an eye on him, and if he finds him loitering in the street after 9 o'clock when he's told him to go in at that hour he (the officer) just gives the boy a licking and tells him not to let it happen again."

Judge Ommen urged the members of the League to do all they could for the establishment in this country of two Domestic Relations courts, one situated in the Criminal Courts Building, and one in Harlem, the dividing line of jurisdiction to be Seventy-second Street. "It is hard lines for a deserted wife to have to come into the common court and sit there with a 'plain drunk' on one side of her and five or six painted women from the Tenderloin on the other. These abandonment cases should have their separate courts and magistrates who have time to give them proper attention. Illegitimate children cases would come before those courts then. At present, in the city courts, these cases are left until the other cases are cleared off, and the woman has to sit there, waiting to tell her story. It isn't a pleasant story to tell before a mixed audience. In a special court it wouldn't be so hard."

One special need of which Judge Ommen spoke was central places of relief for the city's charges. "The last block on 26th Street, down to the East River, is the longest and hottest block in New York," he said. "It is hard for a woman to travel that every week for the $3 or $4 the city allows her."

Throughout his whole address Judge Ommen showed that he is in sympathy with modern and the only civilized theory of treating the criminal, and such aids as the probation system and others, having for their object the giving of another chance had his hearty endorsement. It was not the majesty of the law that the speaker presented, but the law as a savior as well as a judge. In his own personality Judge Ommen has realized this happy union of functions.

Chelsea

At the March meeting of the Chelsea Committee we considered the problems of street cleaning and decided most of them were beyond our solution. Mrs. MacDougall of the Riverside Branch educated us on the subject in her interesting way. The chairman of the Chelsea Committee on Streets, Miss Pfender, reported that drip-pans had been placed under the elevated station at Twenty-third Street and Ninth Avenue. Also that a letter had been sent by the Committee asking Commissioner Craven to detail a man to clear crossings. Last week the Deputy Commissioner, as a friend of one of the Committee, attended a drawing-room meeting held at the home of Mrs. Fred. Lamb to consider the recommendations offered by the Committee. There were more frequent distribution of the "P. R." cards; the occasional circulation of printed cards, short as to text and printed in large type, instructing householders in the manner of separating and placing ashes and garbage. In Chelsea we find the householder most often responsible for the disorderly conditions, and the Committee has had five hundred "polite" cards in all printed. Chelsea women are asked to co-operate with the Committee in an effort to improve the appearance of the neighborhood along this line.

The Deputy Commissioner was asked to see that department stores be

forced to take care of their debris so that the time and labor of the Department shall not be taken from the general public.

Miss Palmer, Chairman of our Public School Committee, finds one school in this district depending on artificial light in some of the classrooms, an evil we shall energetically try to correct.

Respectfully submitted,
HARRIET IVINS BACKUS.

Murray Hill

The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held at the League's Headquarters on Wednesday, April 10th. There were present Mrs. Gordon Wendell, Mrs. Henry Butterworth, Miss Week, Miss Irvin and Miss Greenleaf. The minutes of the previous meeting were read, also various reports. Miss C. C. Ward sent in a report of the street cleaning done in her section of the city (Sullivan Street neighborhood)—detailing the arrangements for the removal of garbage, the hours devoted to the work, and the number of men employed.

Mrs. Redding, Secretary of the W. M. L., desired a large audience to hear ex-Judge Ommon speak at the League's regular public meeting on April 18th. It was therefore voted to send out cards to the members of our Branch requesting their attendance on that occasion.

A letter from Mr. Gosby, in reply to an inquiry of Mrs. Wendell's, intimated that he had offered his services to the Chairman of the Mayor's Commission*, but receiving no reply, Mr. Cosby advised Mrs. Wendell to write to the Commissioner direct. Mr. Cosby also stated that the Committee on Revision of the Board of Aldermen were to hold public meetings in March and April, at which they would receive any public suggestions for new ordinances and amendments of ordinances. Miss de Peyster reported that the public was represented by herself alone, and that the "revising" was carried on in whispers and by scattered groups of men. The meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
A. H. GREENLEAF,
Secretary.

[*Appointed last November to consider the whole question of street jurisdiction with the object of unifying responsibility.—ED.]

Prospect Heights

This Branch has followed its investigation of one of the black spots in its District (the Raymond Street jail), by making good effort through the month of March and these two weeks in April to push the Fuller bill in Albany, which means taking the Raymond Street jail out of the hands of the Sheriff and placing it in the control of the Department of Correction. This Department has all the other jails in Greater New York—with the exception of two—the jail in our District being one of these. The Sheriff's authority is curtailed by much red tape and lack of funds. He has not, consequently, the power to make the changes and improvements he desires. The Department of Correction seems to have all power.

The Committee has done splendid work in writing and interviewing Senators and Assemblymen and the Sheriff, and we have been annoyed to learn of the petty reasons given by one party and others for killing the bill, as it has been killed more than once during other sessions. At last a compromise has been made, and objections to the non-competitive and competitive examination of the various jail officials have been overcome, and we hear at this present date (and yet dare not hope) that there is a bright prospect of the bill passing. The progress which the bill has thus far made, as here told, is due "to the

voice of public opinion" — which means the effort of these women of our Committee.

We have also written to the Street Commissioner in regard to the bad conditions of certain streets in our District and have done some work on the Fort Greene park moral problem, having visited the Hospital and Home adjacent to the park, to hear further details of their complaint of low moral conditions, and I have an appointment to talk with the Park Commissioner on this subject this afternoon.

Miss Fried has spoken at one of our meetings, giving us information of the immigration work done by the Research Department—and has urged us to supply the funds necessary for a visitor to the immigrants coming to Brooklyn. Miss Fried's suggestion was favorably received.

Respectfully submitted,
CAROLINE A. L. PRATT,
Chairman.

Greenwich

The March meeting was held as usual at Richmond Hill House, the subject of the meeting being "Municipal Housing." I am very glad also to report the formation of the Washington Square Association, with Mr. F. W. Whitridge as President. This organization is composed of the residents in this neighborhood who desire to retain its present residential and desirable character; the dues are $5. The association has already done something toward remedying the condition of the street pavement in the neighborhood, and promises to be a very useful agency in maintaining good municipal conditions in our neighborhood. H. S. DAY,
Chairman.

Washington Heights

The April meeting was held at the home of Mrs. A. L. M. Wheeler on April 1st.

In reference to the painting of the viaduct at 155th Street, Mrs. Carbonell read a letter from Alderman Hafenhagen, to whom she had appealed for help in bringing about this improvement, requesting her to write him a second letter—a duplicate of her first one—that he might submit it to the Comptroller.

The plan for the stone coping to surround St. Nicholas' Park was discussed, and the Chairman and Mrs. Carbonell volunteered to interview the Park Commissioner about it. I can report now that this was done, and with great courtesy Colonel Smith of the Park Department explained that the plan for the park is completed and includes a very ornamental stone wall. Colonel Smith also volunteered to send us a plan of the park as it will be when completed.

The resignation of Mrs. James Cowden Meyers as Chairman of the Branch was presented and accepted. The election of her successor went over to a later meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
HELEN H. MEYERS.

Riverside

This Branch desires to report continued activities in the Waring Leagues. Miss Peters reports as follows: "It has been decided not to extend the work this season but to concentrate the energies of the whole Committee on the post already established at St. Michael's Parish House, the idea being to gain experience for future work. Regular meetings are being held and effective work accomplished in clearing up back yards, etc.

"A vaudeville show is to be held early in May, the proceeds to be given toward the establishment of a drinking fountain for animals or an ice-water fountain."

Baseball "nines" and other athletic work are being carried on by Rev. Mr. Lee of St. Michael's, and Commissioner Craven has offered to take a limited number of boys to Riker's and Barren Island to view the work being done there. Money from outside

sources has been donated, but the League hopes to be self-supporting at no very distant date.

The Broadway Bill is signed and Commissioner Hermann is now actively engaged in preparing plans and the last necessary legal steps preparatory to beginning work. One serious obstacle confronts us, but we hope it may be met and vanquished.

Great and serious concern is felt concerning not only the condition of the streets, but in regard to "Streets as a Municipal Problem." And the Riverside Branch desires to make several suggestions. Most gratifying results have attended the issuing of cards. Answers have come in very generally and a decided interest has been evinced. The general consensus of opinion is that while garbage is collected with some regularity, the entire work of the street cleaning force is done by incompetent men in a slovenly manner; that there is an utter want of discipline and of *esprit de corps,* and great lack of proper inspection. The citizens also are utterly devoid of knowledge concerning their most rudimentary duties and entirely lacking in proper civic pride as to said duties. The Borough President cannot be too severely censured for the outrageous neglect of paving and repairing the streets. The building laws are enforced with no rigidity, if enforced at all. The police are utterly indifferent to their duty in regard to enforcing such laws as come under their jurisdiction.

We would, however, recommend great care and thoroughness in whatever work is undertaken in the way of bettering the condition of the streets. If the League, as a whole, is to be respected in its work and is to accomplish work worthy to be taken seriously by the Mayor and the more public minded of our citizens, we must "make haste slowly" and follow the old saying, "Be sure you're right and then go ahead."

Furthermore, it seems to the Riverside Branch that our work will have its best effect if we work as a whole and not as branches. No more vital question excites the public mind today than does the question of our streets, mainly because the health and comfort of the citizen are so largely concerned in its proper solution. Let us therefore work together, discussing the best and most effective means, and working persistently together in what is a very hard problem.

A. F. MacDougall,
Chairman.

Committees

HOUSE.

The regular monthly meeting of the House Committee was held on Friday, April 5th, at the League's Headquarters. As matters were still unsettled in regard to the University Club's lease and Miss Arthur's account, the Committee passed a resolution requesting Miss Hoy aud Miss Arthur to bring matters to a close as soon as possible, and a notification of this action was sent to the Secretary of the Central Committee.

A lease has been signed with the "Shut In" Society for one year, at rental of $300 per annum. The rent for the months of January and February has been received from the University Club. The executors of the O'Brien estate have consented to repair the drain in the back yard. The House Committee is making efforts to rent the second floor back office and the large assembly room, in which effort it hopes to be seconded by the rest of the Central Committee.

E. B. VanAmringe,
Secretary.

Riverside Branch's Arraignment of Commissioner Craven's Administration

At the joint request of the Chairman of Riverside Branch, Mrs. A. F. MacDougall, and Mrs. Percival Knauft, Chairman of the Street

Cleaning Committee in that Branch, the Secretary of the Woman's Municipal League prepared a report of the street cleaning service for publication in the newspapers of Manhattan, the report being based on the replies received from the 500 cards of inquiry sent out to the members of the Woman's Municipal League by Riverside Branch. The report is subjoined:

The Riverside Branch of the Woman's Municipal League having failed, by means of civilly-worded reports of shocking street conditions, coupled with thoroughly practical and easily followed suggestions for betterment, to persuade Commissioner Craven of the Street Cleaning Department to mend his official ways, conceived a plan for arousing and directing the interest of the general public in this vital branch of municipal service, with the ultimate aim of developing an irresistible public opinion which shall force the officials of the Street Cleaning Department to perform effective and honest service.

RESEARCH WORK.

As a first step to this end the Riverside Branch set about collecting data from all parts of Manhattan, the following plan being adopted: To 500 of the members of The Woman's Municipal League was sent a card which the recipient was asked to fill out and return after *three weeks* of especial observance. Four questions were asked: 1. What time garbage is collected? 2. What time ashes? 3. What time is your street swept? 4. How thoroughly is all this work done? Some hundreds of written replies were received at the expiration of the stated time and among them only about one dozen that reported satisfactory conditions. The reports covered the city from 227th Street to Sullivan Street, and from the East to the North Rivers between those points.

CITIZENS HAVE TO BRIBE STREET CLEANERS TO DO WORK THE TAXPAYER IS TAXED FOR HAVING DONE.

This investigation revealed that in many instances garbage and ashes removal is done by private contract and it was reported of one or two uptown apartment houses that they dispose of garbage by incineration on the premises. In other apartment houses the janitors or landlords are said to be compelled regularly to tip the employees of the Street Cleaning Department to have them perform their duty. One member of the League reported that she recently counted thirteen barrels of ashes in front of a Broadway apartment house—a most unsightly array. Upon inquiry she learned that the janitor was quoted as saying, "I cannot afford to pay the Street Cleaning office in the neighborhood two dollars." Still another apartment house which disposes of its garbage by incineration is greatly annoyed by the tardiness and irregularity of the ashes collection, the complaint being made that the men on the force are shifted so often that they have not time to fully learn how properly to attend to their duties in return for the fees given them by the landlord! Here, apparently, is a citizen who runs a private school of instruction for "White Wings" at his own expense. Other reports are to the effect that ashes are not taken away in some localities except upon demand being made to headquarters. All over the city there is more or less trouble, especially in snow time, in regard to the collection of ashes, the garbage collection (although that has not reached ideal conditions as to regularity even in good weather), being more satisfactory than the ashes removal.

NEITHER TRAINING NOR INSPECTION.

But it is the methods of doing the work of this Department that come

in, as well they may, for the greatest amount of criticism, the lack of trained service being equally noticeable as regards both the cleaning of the streets and the handling of garbage and ashes. Nothing more slovenly than the practices of the collectors could be conceived. It is a matter of pure chance frequently whether the contents of the swill-can in whole or in part are deposited in the cart or in the gutter. Indeed, it is no uncommon experience to look up or down a block and assure oneself that the department's wagons have gone through the street by noting the little hillocks of fruit and vegetable parings and other refuse that adorn the gutters on each side of the block for its whole length. The service is, with rare exceptions, not only untrained but wholly indifferent, the drivers viewing with unconcern the ashes and garbage they drop from the cans. Whatever is dropped by them is left; even when they overturn barrels and cans, localities like Riverside Drive having been disfigured with such inexcusable, revolting messes. The practices of many of the collectors of ashes and garbage cannot be too strongly condemned, for by their carelessness they add incalculably to the filthiness of the streets, which, considering that the street cleaners are also inefficient, is a very grave matter and one that every member of the community is affected by, especially now that the hot weather is approaching, when the offensiveness of filthy streets is perilous and disgusting to a superlative degree.

The ways of the street cleaners are also characterized by inexperience and shiftlessness. Their neglect of duty is often shameless, as they make a pretense of sweeping but in reality only brush over the surface of the streets. The "White Wing" is neither trained nor directed; his work is irregularly attended to—sometimes he does not visit certain localities for weeks at a time—and he rarely, if ever, leaves a really clean street in his wake.

A NEGLECTED BUT VITAL CONSIDERATION IN MOST STREET CLEANING DISCUSSIONS.

In addition to the ordinary dirt of the street and that deposited by the collectors of garbage and ashes, the streets of the city are rendered unsightly by papers, of every kind and description, which litter sidewalks, roadways and house steps, and which are carried by every wind. These receive little attention from the Street Cleaning Department. The requirement that papers shall be tied in bundles and not transferred loosely into wagons, is frequently ignored by the department men, and invariably by the private collectors of such refuse. And the practice indulged in by most drivers of leaving the contents of their wagons uncovered is also a prolific source of litter.

It is the opinion of the Riverside Branch, which has carefully observed the streets with a view to their betterment, that if the papers could be kept from the thoroughfares, either through not being put there by the careless public, or promptly removed by the Street Cleaning Department, the problem of presentable streets would be much simplified. This is a phase of the matter that must be taken into account in any plan for keeping the streets clean, as refuse paper is perpetually in evidence in parks and vacant lots as well as the built-up portions of the city. That so important a feature of street cleaning should not be adequately provided for by the officials of the Street Cleaning Department is not the least of their condemnation.

The delinquencies of the Department are manifold, but they are all only so many manifestations of the incapacity of the Department's head. A capable, conscientious Commissioner would not only establish system in his department, train his force and have their work properly and frequently inspected, but he would develop some plan for instructing the public in its

duties as regards streets, and secure the co-operation of the Police Department in enforcing the ordinances. None of these basic things has the present executive of the Street Cleaning Department done, and the results of his incapacity and indifference are writ in filth and disorder all over Manhattan.

Milk Stations in the Parks

The efforts of the League in behalf of pure milk for those classes in the community which cannot afford to pay 12 and 14 cents and more a quart for certified milk, has included agitation for the erection of small milk booths in the parks, where pasteurized milk can be dispensed for infants, as it has been for older children for some time. All that has been asked from the municipality is the appropriation of a few thousand dollars to pay for the erection of the booths. That large-hearted philanthropist, Nathan Straus, the greatest child-savior of the age, offered to supply the necessary milk and the attendance. Those who fear that this move may tend to endanger a spiritless pauperism are advised that a nominal price per portion is asked for the milk.

The press of the city very warmly seconded the efforts of the League, the New York *Tribune* having made the appeal the subject of the following encouraging editorial utterance:

MILK DEPOTS.

The effort being made by the Woman's Municipal League to secure an appropriation of $8,000 for the erection of small milk booths in the public parks deserves the friendly consideration of the municipal authorities. The well-known purpose of the proposed booths is to serve as depots for the distribution of low-priced pasteurized milk furnished by Mr. Nathan Straus. As the only available sites for such booths are in city parks, and as their maintenance is not a money-making enterprise, it may be by no means a bad policy for the city to spend the trivial sum asked for their erection.

There can be no doubt that the city may properly assist a charitable undertaking which works so directly and surely to reduce the alarming infant death-rate among the poor in summer. Mr. Straus's praiseworthy distribution of pure milk is not so much a gratuitous charity as it is a means of protecting babies against the disastrous poverty and ignorance of their parents. Even if thousands of East Siders could afford to buy pure milk for their children, they would not know how to take care of it properly. In view of the fact that hundreds of fairly intelligent servants cannot be made to realize the necessity of keeping a bottle of milk closed and in a cool place, the dullest imagination can picture the treatment accorded to infants' food by the primitive mothers of the tenement houses.

According to observations made from time to time by the Health Department of the good effects of pure milk distribution, it is safe to say that the small sum of $8,000 would soon pay the city an enormous dividend in the money saved by the decreased number of young patients forced upon public and private charities.

To the Friends of Municipal Reform:

The Woman's Municipal League requires at least one thousand dollars to carry on the work of the Central Committee for the summer. As none of the officers of the League receives any salary, the funds subscribed are directly applied to the practical work of municipal betterment. Small as well as large contributions will be welcomed. These should be sent to Miss Catharine Leverich, Treasurer of Woman's Municipal League, 19 East 26th Street.

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Object: Municipal Housekeeping

Some of Its Municipal Activities

It stopped the immoral traffic in girls through Employment Agencies and improved general conditions in these places.

It has erected and maintains sixteen Ice-water Fountains in the poorer neighborhoods and two additional fountains will be erected immediately.

The League is now fighting for pure milk for the poorer classes who cannot afford to pay twelve and fourteen cents a quart for certified milk.

ASSEMBLY ROOM of WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

19 East 26th Street

Central location; southern exposure; furnished; piano; facilities on the premises for afternoon teas or evening suppers; attendance furnished. Rental for morning, afternoon or evening at very moderate prices. Telephone 4190 Madison Square.

ıers' League
of New York
East 22d Street
athan, *President*
Miss Anita Neilson, *Recording Secretary.*
Mrs. Geo. K. B. Wade, *Corresponding Secretary.*
Miss Pauline Goldmark, *Executive Secretary.*

Extracts from address delivered by Mrs. Frederick Nathan at the recent Peace Congress.

. . . In former days treaties were drawn up between countries to settle boundary lines, to decide amounts of indemnity to be paid, to bind each other to mutual assistance in the event of war with other nations. They were at best mere armed truces, temporary pauses in perpetual war. But two years ago an epoch-making treaty was drawn up between delegates representing fourteen European countries, which had for its fundamental basis—not a plan for the exploitation of their citizens, either by taxation for indemnities, or by pledging their men to be used as targets for bullets—but a plan to protect their citizens by mutually agreeing to prohibit the work of women in factories at night. This sprang from a similar narrower movement of the year before, when the governments of France and Italy arranged the earliest labor treaty, providing for factory inspection, abolition of night work for women, reduction of hours for women, a day of rest once a week, and granting to French and Italian co-laborers in both countries equal treatment in respect to payment of pensions, and sick and accident benefits.

Yet another European treaty has recently been made, one more remarkable still in its high moral purpose. It aims to place industrial competition on a higher level; it forbids the use of white or yellow phosphorus in match-making. The fumes of this phosphorus are specially dangerous to working men and women employed in the manufacture of the

Strange to say our country, which is supposed to stand for the highest ideals of democracy, is far behind these European governments in this respect. Only recently three of the five judges

dered a majority decision to the effect that our state law, enacted about ten years ago, prohibiting night work for women, was unconstitutional. The fact that fourteen other nations have found it practicable and expedient to pledge themselves to refrain from working their women at night, should have at least a moral effect upon our nation, and the highest court may reverse this decision.

Not only have governments united in passing laws for the protection of their working people and in the interest of humane industry and enlightened commerce, but the general public has become awake to its responsibilities as *consumers*, and has organized the conscience and intelligence of the buyer as a means of social progress. This is a movement toward universal peace and international fraternity.

To-day conscientious consumers who wish to know under what conditions the articles which they consume are made, who realize that their demands create the supply and therefore desire to inform themselves intelligently in regard to the sources of supply, are made aware of the fact that the boundary line of their investigations is only measured by the boundaries of the civilized globe. For example, in the case of a cotton undergarment, the cotton may have been grown in Alabama, where child labor is not restricted, and is even authorized at night, it may have been spun and woven by machines attended by little children under the tender age of ten. This machinery may have been made in England and its transportation here have necessitated the utilization of ships and ship provisions from countless sources. Or the raw cotton may itself have been transported to England for manufacture. Or again, the goods may have been bleached in the District of Columbia, where there are no laws prohibiting child labor, and the garment having been cut in a factory, may have been stitched in some wretched, germ-infected sweatshop in our own city. The coal for all this factory work may have been procured from Pennsylvania mines where hundreds of little boys work in the breakers. As for the trimming on the garment, the embroidery may have been worked by hand in Switzerland or France, at starvation rates, in a prison or in a convent, or else it may have been made by machinery in Germany. The lace may have been made under the most trying conditions in Belgium, France or Italy; the pearl buttons may have been manufactured in Austria, and the material for them have been procured from the Persian Gulf or the Red Sea. The garment may have been laundered in some Chinese laundry, where the soap used had been made in a Chicago beef-packer's factory, and finally the garment reaches the consumer through the wholesale merchant, who sells it to the retail merchant, who may underpay and overwork his saleswoman who effects the final sale.

Women constitute a very large percentage of the purchasing public. As the years go by (no doubt owing to the propaganda of the Consumers' League) an increasingly large number of women show a desire to acquire their purchases with such peace of conscience as is assured them by the treaty, for instance, which prohibits night work for women. Instead of making individual efforts to discriminate in favor of goods free from the taint of cruelty involved in night work, their consciences are freed, once for all, by that treaty, as to *all* goods from *all* countries bound by it. Would that similar treaties were enacted extending exemption from night work to young boys! That treaty is the stepping-stone which must necessarily lead to further industrial gains, to be accomplished by the same enlightened methods which make for international peace. Realizing that we have thus reached a point far beyond tribal isolation, and that we must in future recognize our international commercial bonds, an international conference has been arranged for the near future, to be attended by delegates from the National Consumers' League, which consists of sixty separate leagues, and by delegates from the various European Consumers' Leagues, for the exchange of ideas and statements relating to the different standards of production and distribution in different countries. The aim is eventually to establish an international standard of the ethics of labor.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Reports and pamphlets relating to the work of the Consumers' League will be sent on request to members and others who will help the League by distributing its literature during the summer months.

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

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June, 1907

....THE....

WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. V. JUNE, 1907 No. 11

An Interesting Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Woman's Municipal League held in May was convened at 4 P. M., and although a very severe storm raged all the afternoon, there was a very fine attendance.

The subject for the meeting was Street Cleaning and the programme was opened by Mr. R. Louis Hoguet, who, speaking on the subject of the day, made many helpful suggestions which were especially serviceable at this juncture when the whole community is greatly concerned over the neglect and inefficiency which have made the streets of Greater New York a by-word for the last few months.

It was pointed out by Mr. Hoguet that the change in the character of buildings, their large size, and the increase in population materially alter the street cleaning problem, so that appliances and systems which were tolerable a few years ago have become wholly inadequate. It is important to bear this fact in mind as it helps to a realization of the imperative need that exists of modernizing the whole system. The unsatisfactory condition of the rapid transit problem is an instance of the result of failing to look ahead, and we should avoid going too slow in anticipating the developments of the municipality as regards the proper cleaning of the streets. The first requisite is to develop civic spirit which makes for cleanliness.

The practical suggestions made by Mr. Hoguet looking to a permanent betterment of conditions included: (1) Campaign of education through schools. (2) Pass more effective city ordinances or amendments to the Penal Code. (3) Through the press and magazines, by arousing public opinion and developing a sense of responsibility among the public as a whole. (4) Closed carts; present type not satisfactory; the ideal cart would be a hermetically sealed one. (5) Flushing intelligently applied all over the municipality; this may not be feasible until all of the antiquated sewer system in the lower section of Manhattan is modernized. (6) Cans for use of street sweepers to be sunk below surface and the sweepings to be swept into it.

Mr. Hoguet's address was listened to with great interest and his suggestions warmly applauded.

Dr. James M. Bayles was the second speaker of the day and his illuminative address, delivered in his usual energetic manner, held the absorbed attention of the League members. This sanitary engineer, who is an expert on street cleaning methods, said in part and in effect, that the ordinance at present in force, by which householders are compelled to separate garbage, was wholly unsanitary in its effects, and that it is an imposition on the public, since it was passed for the convenience of the Sanitary Reduction Company, which corporation has the contract for taking over the garbage, and pays the city for the privilege. Dr. Bayles expressed disapproval of the night collection of garbage, on the score of

noise, made by the horses and carts, and the dropping of emptied cans, and the impossibility of seeing clearly whether or not there are can droppings.

For the improvement of the present intolerable conditions, Dr. Bayles suggested that the system be attacked, as in his opinion a Commissioner is powerless unless the system is reformed. For example, unfit men who can secure no other work, so inefficient are they, are foisted on the department, in defiance of the Commissioner. The back of any Commissioner would be broken who attempted to fight the system.

The League members were recommended to "get after the rank and file in the department," focusing efforts and attention on finding out what charter rights the citizen has, what are the duties of district superintendent and foremen. Hale derelict officials of the department into court. A bureau of information should be created where citizens may learn what their rights are, what their duties are, what their rights as householders.

Mindful that the late Colonel Waring of the Street Cleaning Department; Colonel Bingham of the Police Department, and Governor Hughes of New York State, have, each of them, most gloriously smashed well intrenched and hoary systems. The Woman's Municipal League has directed its fight for the reform of the Street Cleaning Department against the Commissioner who in its opinion is responsible. If he is incapable of coping with the system, or unwilling to do, he is unfit for so important a municipal position. The race of strong, efficient men did not die in Colonel Waring, nor is it limited to Governor Hughes and Colonel Bingham; and the Municipal League is reasonable in its demand for a Commissioner of the Street Cleaning Department who shall dominate the system and reform it.—Editor.

The third and last speaker of the afternoon was Commissioner Berry, who is the chief official in the Bronx Park system, and who devoted his remarks to pointing out the continual vandalism that goes on in the parks, and the very untidy practices of visitors. The shame is that not alone the denizens of lower East Side and upper West Side poor class tenements are the offenders, but well dressed men and women and groups of students break off plants and flowers and litter the lawns with greasy luncheon papers and boxes and fruit skins. Commissioner Berry suggested that the conserving of the parks as places where beauties of nature can be enjoyed by the general public could be brought about through the public schools, and such institutions as the Educational Alliance; the attention being directed to the fact that liberty is not license, and that the parks belong to the whole public, and he or she who mars trees, plants or flowering shrubs by appropriating any part of them or by littering paths or the green with refuse is interfering with the rights and the pleasure of others. The Commissioner emphasized the fact that much and valuable educational aid for the preservation of the beauties of our parks could be accomplished by such organizations as the League. Commissioner Berry's interesting address was received with applause by his audience.

Among the letters and reports read at this meeting was the subjoined from Mrs. Russell Sage, whose interest in the parks extends to the squirrels and birds who make their homes in them.

Mrs. Josephine Redding,
The Woman's Municipal League,
19 East Twenty-sixth Street.

My Dear Mrs. Redding:

Your letter of the thirteenth is received, asking data in regard to the untidy practices of those who make use of the privileges accorded to the public in Central Park. A visit to the parts appropriated at this season by

May parties will furnish ocular proof of the abuse of these privileges in the disfigurement of these beautiful grounds by the papers and other refuge scattered broadcast by such parties.

Still more blameworthy amid the general vandalism is the robbing of birds' nests by young marauders, an especially deplorable instance of which came to my notice but a few days ago in the sudden disappearance of a nest of young cardinals.

The activity of your League in the matter of the keeping clean of our city streets is, if possible, of still greater importance. The condition of both parks and streets at present being a disgrace not only to our city fathers but to its sons and daughters as well.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) M. Olivia Sage,
Pr. Secretary.

June 16, 1907.

Co-operative Effort to Reform City Street Conditions

In April the City Club invited representatives of the Woman's Municipal League, together with those of some thirty or more other civic organizations, to meet with the Club's representatives and provide for co-operative effort through a Central Committee. The League acquiesced in the plan and Mrs. Allan MacDougall was selected to serve as the League's representative on the committee.

The City Club sent out the following suggestive statement of street conditions which need the attention of public-spirited citizens:

The matters demanding consideration include, apparently, the following:

1. The condition of the paving, with special reference to the quality and durability of the material used for original paving, the responsibility for failures to properly repair the holes and other irregularities resulting from wear and tear, or from the cutting of the street surfaces by public service corporations or for the purposes of the city itself.

2. The methods of refuse collection, and the littering of the streets through careless or imperfect methods of removing ashes, garbage, and other refuse; with special reference to the operation of private removal companies chartered by the city and to the disregard by householders of ordinances with respect to the proper separation of refuse material or the overloading of refuse cans.

3. The littering of the streets through the failure of contractors and builders to obey the city ordinances restricting the amount of space they may occupy, through their failure to properly cover the sand, mortar, and other building materials used in their work.

4. The littering of the streets through refuse material thrown into them in violation of city ordinances by pedestrians and others.

5. The failure of the police to enforce the ordinances dealing with the above-mentioned subjects.

Note—All of these causes being contributory to the filthy conditions with which the Street Cleaning Department has to deal.

6. The methods of the Street Cleaning Department as to the distribution of its men in districts and squads and the responsibility of inspectors and foremen for the efficiency of the sweeping and carting forces.

7. The matter of street flushing, and the possible use of the auxiliary salt water mains for such purposes.

8. The use of mechanical appliances in sweeping streets, safeguarding the removal of refuse, etc., and the possible extension of such methods.

9. The methods of cleaning the receiving basins, now parts of the sewer system, into which street refuse flows.

10. The methods of snow removal.

Much of the difficulty that has arisen is due undoubtedly to the lack of co-ordination between the various departments chargeable with the responsibility for the care of the streets. Until such co-ordination is secured, however, the only course open is to secure enforcement of the laws and ordinances through such departments and bureaus as are now charged with separate details. If the responsible officers are derelict, that fact should be shown and changes demanded. It is clear, however, that the first step lies in the direction of presenting the facts to such officers, and in using the means most readily at hand to secure the correction of the conditions of which we complain before other recourse is taken.

Children Clean Streets

The Pierce School in Brookline, Mass., according to the Boston *Transcript,* has solved the problem of littered streets in so far as the children of that school are concerned.

At first an attempt was made at abstract teaching, but it was without effect. Then something practical was devised. Each room held an election and selected four representatives for the Good Citizens' Club, making about fifty in all.

These met and selected officers, divided up the streets of the neighborhood and assigned a portion to each grade, making it absolutely responsible for conditions in its territory. Waste receptacles were needed and the children interviewed the assistant superintendent of streets and got them.

To keep up interest the teachers are conducted by the various squads over what they call their "beats." Healthy emulation has produced most desirable results.

Cleanliness and freedom from possible contagion made it necessary that the children should not handle dirty papers, skins of fruit and other refuse with their fingers, so the manual training teacher got some volunteers from the club and collecting sticks were prepared for the workers.

The results of the experiment are manifest, and many favorable comments have come in from citizens and from the officials of the street department. School papers, which may easily be detected, are rarely found on the streets. It is observed, however, that refuse from other sources continues about the same, and it is thought it will probably remain so until adults learn from the children or till the younger generation takes the place of the present careless one.

The principal of the school says that one thing is certain: the members of the Good Citizens' Club of that Pierce School who have bent their backs 2,000 times in the course of a single week to pick up papers can never in the whole course of their lives look upon scattered papers in our streets with indifference.

An Ordinance

regulating the cleaning of streets and sidewalks and keeping them clean, and removing snow and ice, dirt and other materials therefrom in the City of New York.

Section 1. No person or persons shall throw, cast or lay, or direct, suffer or permit any servant, agent or employee to throw, cast or lay any ashes, offal, vegetable, garbage, dross, cinders, shells, straw, shavings, paper, dirt, filth, or rubbish of any kind whatsoever in any street in the City of New York either upon the roadway or sidewalk thereof, except that in the morning before eight o'clock or before the first sweeping of the roadway by the Department of Street Cleaning, in the Boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx, dust from the sidewalk may be swept into the gutter, if piled there, but not otherwise, and at no other time.

The willful violation of any of the foregoing provisions of this section shall be and is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor and shall be punished

by a fine of not less than one dollar and not more than ten dollars, or by imprisonment for a term of not less than one nor more than five days.

Section 4. No one being the owner, driver, manager or conductor of any cart or other vehicle, or of any receptacle, shall scatter, drop or spill, or permit to be scattered, dropped or spilled, any dirt, sand, gravel, clay, loam, stone or building rubbish, or hay, straw, oats, sawdust, shaving or other light material of any sort or manufacturing trade, or household waste, refuse, rubbish of any sort, or ashes or manure, garbage or other organic refuse or other offensive matter therefrom, or permit the same to be blown off therefrom by the wind, in or upon any street, avenue or public place.

Section 5. No person shall throw, cast or distribute in or upon any of the streets, avenues or public places, or in any front yards or stoops, any handbills, circulars, cards or other advertising matter whatsoever.

Section 315, Charter. "It is hereby made the duty of the Police Department and force, at all times of day and night, and members of such force are hereby thereunto empowered, to . . . . . enforce and prevent the violation of all laws and ordinances in force in said city."

The Truant Question
from a
Volunteer Worker's Point View

An Address delivered by Mrs. Florence Todd, member of the Woman's Municipal League, Kingsbridge Branch.

In my opinion there are three main factors in truancy—the failure of the school to interest the pupil, home environment, and physical causes.

Does our present school system bring out the boy's best sense of responsibility, honor, and civic pride? Do we sufficiently differentiate our educational courses to meet the requirements of different classes of pupils?

The present curriculum seems formed for the child who is to pass through primary, grammar, and high schools, and then on to city college or university; in fact, adapted to the demands of the head workers, yet the large majority of our public school children are to be hand workers whose necessities, or those of their families, will not permit a long period of training. In certain portions of our great city we should have schools whose systems of study are arranged not only by college presidents and professors, but by a committee of successful business men, who were obliged to become wage-earners when they reached the legal age or before.

All the boys like the "Gym.," and if the gymnasium and manual training work were entered in the third instead of the seventh school year there would undoubtedly be a large decrease in truancy.

The indifferent and uninteresting teacher has much to answer for in this regard, and the part-time classes, giving the child opportunity for so much play that its attraction becomes greater than that of the school, certainly lead to truancy. Good results might be obtained by following the example of the government in fitting the cadets at West Point and Annapolis for their chosen vocations by teaching our boys not only from text-books but at least the elements of trades or commercial procedure. The more we make our schools a social center for our boys and girls the better.

Many parents seem unable to control their children, more are careless, and others curse the law that compels them to send their children to school until they reach the age of fourteen years. Of course there are bad boys, and weak ones who are led astray by evil companions, who have neat homes and good mothers, but the bad conditions of very many homes are responsible for sending many a boy into the streets where he meets with temptations which overcome him, and where he takes his first step in a

career of anti-social life by becoming a truant. Thus in the home life is found one of the great roots of truancy, and we need a large force of volunteer workers to undertake friendly visiting at the homes of the children with the object of keeping the parents, pupils, and schools in close touch. I do not mean that the volunteer workers should usurp in any way the functions of the Attendance Officers, but an experience based on five months' work in this line recently has brought me to a realization of the fact that delinquent children need friendly guidance and a personal interest taken in them.

Much good work is being accomplished by the Committee on Physical Welfare of School Children, the Child Labor Societies, and the Public Education Association, and also by some of the Settlement workers toward solving this great problem.

I give you herewith a few illustrations of how home conditions react upon these boys. Walter S., age 13 years, has played truant for six months. Father is night-worker, mother is dead. A sister is employed in a factory, and the house is cared for by another sister, who is unhappy and discontented because of its charge; and there is an older brother also who, in the language of this sister, is a corner loafer. Walter now attends P. S. No. 3 as a result of volunteer friendly visitors.

Thomas M., age 13 years, has been out of school for fifteen months because his parents did not see the necessity of sending him. After a little talk the father promised to take "Tom" to school the next morning, and did so on January 24, 1907.

Charles B., age 8 years, left kindergarten about two years ago and has since remained at home because his parents did not care to send him to school. Entered again January 17, 1907.

E. and A. C., ages 9 and 7 years, have never attended school because of the religious differences of parents as to public and parochial schools. Both now attend St. Joseph's Seminary.

Matthew L. left school at twelve years of age, and also left home on account of bad treatment from his father. Lives with an uncle and drives a butcher's cart to maintain himself.

Charles D., age 15 years, has been an inmate of Truant School and Catholic Protectory. Father's salary is $9 per week. Mother is a shirt ironer in a laundry. There are six children in the family, who are cared for by a twin sister of Charles.

William G., age 13 years. Father dead and his mother removed him from school when he was twelve years old because she needed any money he could earn. Mother is being helped so boy can attend school.

Samuel McG. had a good home with his parents, but would not attend school. His mother thought the Attendance Officer mistaken in the child when he insisted that the boy was a truant, as he is one of the angelic-faced children who apparently can do no evil, but a little personal detective work soon convinced her of the truth of the charge. The boy is now fifteen years of age, works steadily and brings his mother each week his wages intact, but will not attend night school. A change of school and teacher started this boy in truancy.

A New Brand of "Practical Politics"

The American people are at the moment privileged to observe politics "as played" very conspicuously presented, and even those not distinguished for insight cannot but be impressed by the fact that a novelty has been developed in the somewhat hackneyed system of conducting public affairs. It is doubtful, however, if the new note could have been successfully sounded so soon had it not been for the very modern movement toward the formation of groups of citizens who com-

bine for the purpose of initiating and furthering reform measures of various kinds. These groups can be quickly mobilized in support of policies or officials, which is, of course, an incalculably great advantage in a democracy, and tends to make government by the people a reality instead of merely an aspiration. When, for example, an upright official, intent upon administering gubernatorial affairs honestly and efficiently, finds himself face to face with an opposition made up of those who can offer no good reason for their hostility to his measures, he can promptly appeal to a large proportion of the public by speaking before such bodies as the People's Institute, City Club, Citizens' Union, of Greater New York, and kindred associations throughout the State. The great advantage of his putting the matters under discussion before such organizations is that he appears as a non-partisan official who desires to rest his case with the whole people of the State, not merely to appeal to those identified with the political organization to which he happens to belong.

It has been peculiarly interesting to those who have believed all along that politics need not necessarily be allied with trickery, to listen to the comments of the man in the street, as well as to those of the knowing ones in editorial sanctums, who were so sure a few weeks ago that the Governor of New York's novel system of administration showed how futile it is to take a man without political experience, albeit a keen lawyer with a brilliant reputation as an investigator, and place him in a position where the game of politics must be played according to the rules—which consist largely of trading and compromise—if the administration of public affairs is to go on to accomplishment. The opposition assumed a threatening pose, and even the independent press, which supports pure government movements, plainly intimated that the Governor had isolated himself and thereby developed an embarrassing situation out of which he would find it difficult to escape. "'What will he do?" became the burning political surmise of the session.

What Governor Hughes did was to secure the support of the people. And this solid achievement he obtained, not by holding his ear to the ground and trimming his political measures to suit popular demand, after the manner of politicians, but by standing upright as an honest man and leading the people to a perception of the desirableness of the bills he advocated. He has won all along the line. First and most important of all he has maintained his personal integrity by keeping the pledges he made when after nomination he was seeking the votes of his fellow citizens; he has given the commonwealth admirable measures in line with modern needs, and he has taught politicians in Albany and elsewhere a much-needed lesson in common honesty.

VOGUE.

District Branches

CHELSEA.

The last meeting of the Chelsea Committee was social, and it is a matter for regret that there was not a representative of the Central Committee present at our tea. Mrs. Joseph Cushman made the drawing-room of the "Chelsea Girls' Club" beautiful with palms, cedar boughs, and pink tulips. The tea tables presided over by Mrs. Lamb, the Misses Hyde, Mayo, and Pfender were dainty and tempting. The Colonial candlesticks and family plate showed that Chelsea had ancestors as well as an Improvement Committee, of which we hope the ancestors are justly proud.

One hundred attended the tea and twelve of our guests enrolled as new members. Several of these new members came from the Hudson Guild Settlement Work, and we were glad

to get in touch with Dr. Eliot's people.

Miss Pfender has proved a most efficient chairman of the Street Cleaning Committee. She has had fifteen hundred circulars printed and distributed, instructing householders as to their duty in keeping their premises orderly and helping to improve neighborhood conditions. Our thanks are due Deputy Commissioner Edwards, of the Street Cleaning Department, for the marked improvement in Chelsea District in the regular collection of ashes and the neat, methodic manner in which it is now done.

With several railroad ferries and trans-Atlantic steamship companies in this district it is a matter of civic pride with Chelsea that it should present the best conditions to travelers and foreigners entering our city at this point.

Colored plans were sent this committee by Commissioner Bensel of the Dock Department, showing the improvements along the river front from Fourteenth to Twenty-third Streets. The Municipal Art Society, the Chelsea Committee, and other organizations have hoped to be able to preserve some view of the Hudson River and water craft, and we have reason to believe that Commissioner Bensel will entertain all reasonable recommendations and work out the best results.

The Executive Committee of Chelsea is happy to find that $80 have been contributed through it in answer to the League's appeal for funds to carry on its summer work. This fund, together with our dues, rated at fifty cents per capita, makes it possible for the Chairman to turn over $110 to the Central Committee of the League. Finally the Chairman is grateful for the efficient co-operation of the members of this Branch during the past winter and earnestly hopes the revival in Chelsea may prove infectious and spread to every Branch of this League with the result that the efficiency and usefulness of the entire organization may be greatly increased.

HARRIET BACKUS,
Chairman.

CHELSEA LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

NAME.	AMOUNT.
Henry Clinton Backus	$10.00
Mrs. H. C. Backus	5.00
Clinton D. Backus	2.00
Henry Sturtz	5.00
Charles Ruoff	2.00
Charles F. Schleussner	3.00
James Lawlor	2.00
Charles R. Lamb	2.00
Miss G. R. Cushman	2.00
Miss E. A. Cushman	1.00
Joseph W. Cushman	10.00
Fanny Rathborne Cushman	2.00
Clara Taylor	2.00
Adelaide E. Palmer	2.00
Henel Van Bokkelen	2.00
Elizabeth A. Cushman	2.00
Mrs. Martin	1.00
Mrs. E. H. Cushman	10.00
Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Cushier	2.00
Miss Carrie Cushier	1.00
Walter Cushier	1.00
Mr. and Mrs. W. Winslow	2.00
C. H. Drake	2.00
Mrs. W. E. Oddie	2.00
Courtney Hyde	1.00
Matilda Dart	1.00
The Misses Hyde	1.00
Miss Dawson	1.00
Mrs. S. R. Weed	1.00

GREENWICH.

This District Branch has held eight meetings in all—two at the Central office, one a tea, five at Richmond Hill House, and one at the house of the chairman in May.

The Richmond Hill House meeting has had an attendance varying from twelve to twenty-five women, not counting their children, and psychologically has been quite interesting. The women have been addressed on child labor, the nurses' work in the

public schools, the streets, municipal housing in England, the police, and in relation to our high rents in New York. The entire cost has been $3, an average of 60 cents a meeting for the tea and cake, and as a means of giving pleasure at small cost it has at any rate been successful.

If persevered in I think civic ideas may be brought to the politically impassive Italian woman. The chairman suggested that as she did not feel able to give time necessary to carry it on alone, a committee be formed, of which Mrs. Arthur Hodge was appointed chairman. Such subjects as tenements, parks, the gas supply and lighting problem, and the milk question have not yet been touched upon.

The District as a whole has done little work, mainly owing to the few members we have who can give us any time. But some of the members have done individual work. Miss Ward made an excellent study of the street conditions in her neighborhood, and Mrs. Nichols and the chairman, as representing this Branch on the League Committee on Police, have examined two of the three station houses in this District—those in Mercer and Macdougal Streets—finding them in good condition, except as to some of the plumbing arrangements at Macdougal Street. At the other station house of this District—Charles Street—they refused to show us over without a permit from the Commissioner, which I hope we may yet possibly obtain. All three of these station houses have matrons.

The Chairman has also written a gentleman in front of whose house formerly stood a picturesque old tree, asking him to replace it. Wish that we could all make an effort to have our neighborhood beautified by more trees.

She also wrote complaining of the Jefferson Market clock, which did not go for weeks, and at present has only two out of the three faces in order.

The Superintendent of Public Buildings, Mr. Walker, is now being investigated, and I should believe it very necessary, if this is a sample of his efficiency.

The Chairman also wrote Mr. Ahearn asking two questions in regard to the streets—1. Whether the divided responsibility and lack of power in each department was not to blame in some measure for the present conditions; 2. Whether the increased work per street of the Street Cleaning Department caused by the construction of the skyscrapers was recognized by a sufficient increase in taxation, of which the Street Department would automatically receive a certain proportion? His replies are interesting in view of all the recent happenings, but do not go deeply enough into the matter, except that the letter from the Street Cleaning Department itself states that the taxation is not in sufficient proportion to the work of these tall buildings.

Mrs. Nichols was appointed chairman of our Branch Committee on Streets, and the feeling of our Branch is (and I would urge it very strongly) that next winter we co-operate with the different branches to unite in thorough work on this problem. There are so many branches of this subject and so many details, such as the best type of carts, the hours and training of the men, garbage and incineration, the dumps, ashes and their revenue producing powers, taxation in its relation to the annual budget of the Street Department, the obtaining of adequate revenue from the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, the supervision afterward to know how the money is spent—all this inside the Street Department itself, not to speak of the necessary larger work, the great need, if possible, of reorganizing and creating a real Street Department (composed of technical experts out of politics, well paid and permanent officials) which has its own repair department and is in control of all the work now scattered among different bureaus and officials. Such

technical boards they have in Germany and we could very well study the foreign systems. No one branch could possibly undertake all this, and I therefore urge again that we form a plan of union.

Our branch also feels strongly that the memberships here, if possible, should bring in a revenue to the League, and that the Financial Committee hereafter be responsible for running the League within its known or foreseen income.

K. S. Day, Chairman.

Murray Hill.

The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held on May 8th, at the League's headquarters. There were present Mrs. Wendell, Miss Week, Mrs. Butterworth, Miss Van Amringe, and Miss Greenleaf. The treasurer reported disbursements amounting to $106, leaving a balance in the bank of $162.95.

It was moved and seconded that two members of the Estimate Committee should call upon the Park Commissioner with a request for the placing of more tin receptacles for waste in the parks. Other members were selected to interview certain city editors and ask them to print a daily appeal to the public urging the public to refrain from throwing theirs in the streets.

A. H. Greenleaf,
Secretary.

Morrisania.

In Kingsbridge violent protests are being made by the residents—our members being particularly active—against the building of car and freight yards by the Interborough R. R. The Interborough has already acquired thirteen acres of land for this purpose, and those interested in preventing the disfigurement of the locality in this manner are urging the city to construct two important avenues directly through this section. Should these avenues be built the tract of land purchased by the Interborough would be divided into three portions, and would not in consequence be serviceable for car yards. Mrs. Todd was present at the hearing to urge the construction of these avenues, and also attended the adjourned hearing on May 29th. All New York lovers should assist in the prevention of this nuisance, as the proposed yards would immediately adjoin the Spuyten Duyvil Parkway, thus making an ugly blot on that portion of the magnificent drive, which will eventually connect Riverside and Lafayette Boulevards with Bronx and Pelham Bay Parks.

Efforts are also being made by this Division to enforce the ordinances in regard to the disposal of garbage, and in relation to the keeping the steps of the subway stations properly cleaned.

Spuyten Duyvil.

The eradication of the mosquito is engaging the attention of our members in the neighborhood of Spuyten Duyvil, and to this end a leaking hydrant, which made the ground wet and soggy in its immediate vicinity, has been removed and a new style hydrant put in. Other plans to this same end are being perfected.

Inwood,

of which Miss Hobbie is chairman, has contributed a considerable sum toward the erection of a memorial to Mrs. Lowell in Central Park. It has received a promise from the Department of Water, Gas, and Electricity to erect lights on Emerson Street—a thoroughfare leading directly from Inwood to the Subway Station, which has hitherto been left entirely unlighted. New flagstones have been laid, and the water pressure of two dwellings improved at Miss Hobbie's request; and the members are interesting themselves in the preservation of the end of Manhattan Island for park purposes. After repeated attempts to enforce the proper cleaning of Broadway, Miss Hobbie has succeeded in having the sidewalks and streets entirely cleared of paper and rubbish

and the avenue is at present a model of cleanliness.

Woodstock.

League members at Woodstock are doing a fine and lasting piece of work. Let us begin with the minor matters: The park plots on Prospect Avenue have been resodded and five arrests of drivers who have driven across these park plots have been made at Mrs. Fisk's, the chairman, investigation. Also at our request five more street cleaners have been detailed in this section, and letters have been addressed to Park Commissioner Berry requesting the preservation of St. James's Park in its original beauty, and the prevention of ball playing there. Four new members have been added to this division.

Mrs. Fisk has been able to obtain permission from owners of empty lots to open the same to the public. The Park Department has promised its co-operation, as far as it felt justified in so doing, and will lend its benches and assist in clearing. We have been presented by several department stores with large umbrellas, decorated, of course, with advertisements, which are large enough to be placed in the ground and to afford shade for two or more benches. These open lots are a boon to the neighborhood, and the police officer on beat has complimented our members on the beneficial change already apparent.

Through Mrs. Fisk's instrumentality a neglected fountain at 164th Street and Third Avenue, which has not been running for eight years, has been repaired by the superintendent of sewers. She also discovered that a resolution had been passed by the Board of Aldermen two years ago calling for the erection of a fountain and light at 169th Street and Tiffany Avenue—the junction of five streets—and she expects to push this matter and get the fountain erected. Another fountain has also been provided for through the efforts of Mrs. Fisk and Miss Anderson. Two euchres were held and the sum of $170 has been realized. The plans for the fountain have been presented to us by Charles Lamb, and the fountain, including an isle of safety, is to be placed at the junction of 138th Street, Lincoln and Third Avenues. The city authorities will tap the main and make the proper connections, and several city departments are participating with great eagerness and pleasure in the Woodstock Committee's plans.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia L. D. Longfellow,
_____ Chairman.

Prospect Heights, Brooklyn.

This Branch has made untiring effort throughout the last month to arouse the proper officials to the eradication or possible amelioration of the present evils in Fort Greene Park. An interview was had with the Park Commissioner, who said this park's reputation had been bad for thirty years. He was glad such a body of women as our Branch was interested, and he would do what he could to reform conditions, which was little, however, as he no longer controlled the Park Police. I have, however, noticed since our talk that the bushes in the hollows near the Hospital and Home have been cut low. This is a locality where carousing seemed to be going on from dark to the small hours into the morning all during the spring and summer months.

A visit to the Police Commissioner resulted in his interest being aroused and his sending the Captain of the Precinct and two detectives to my house to hear my complaints. This kind of a complaint seemed to be a surprise to the Captain, who had been in the Precinct only a short time, and he promised to keep the Park "cleaned out." I engaged to advise him through the summer if the Hospital and the Home were still annoyed.

Since our last meeting the bill placing the King's County Jail in the control of the Department of Correc-

tion has passed the Senate, but has been held up by the very man who introduced it in the Assembly, which is rather mysterious.

We have doubled our efforts and two sets of letters have been sent to the five members interested, but we hear there is little chance of its passing, even though it is known that many influential people have been working for two months in their interest in this bill.

Our Tenement Committee reported a co-operative spirit with the Bureau of Charities, and with the guidance of Mr. Nichols are visiting tenements and are to lend assistance to an exhibition in the autumn of the congested districts.

Miss Fried spoke to us again on the women immigrants who come to Brooklyn. In March (the stormiest month for crossing), when fewer immigrants travel, 269 girls came to Brooklyn, which would make an average of 3,000 a year. In New York it has been proved that an average of 25 per cent. need either financial aid or moral guidance. A motion was made and carried that the Prospect Branch assume the salary of a working visitor to these women immigrants coming to Brooklyn. The necessary funds have been raised through a Bridge Party and private contribution.

CAROLINE A. L. PRATT,
Chairman.

Committees

ICE-WATER COMMITTEE.

At the April meeting of this Committee a letter was read from the American Ice Company offering to supply our fountains with ice at the rate of twenty cents per hundred pounds. Mrs. Folsom was asked to find out just how much ice would be required to fill one of the fountain boxes, and then we could tell approximately how much ice we ought to be charged with. Letters were read from the Salvation Army and from the Florence Crittenden Mission. The Salvation Army gratefully accepting a fountain.

Miss Anderson from The Bronx reported no advantageous site for an ice-water fountain in that section, and stated that the sum of money raised in The Bronx was to be devoted to a plain water fountain.

At the May meeting of this committee Miss Holt reported her visit to the Children's Aid Fountain. This seemed to be appreciated, the officers of the school being much interested.

McAuley Mission Superintendent reported the need of more ice for that fountain.

People's Home Church reported a generous supply of ice and no complaints about fountain on that site.

Florence Crittenden Mission has decided to accept a fountain. The cost of erection of a new fountain being more than we expected, Miss Lane generously increased the amount of her gift, which makes the sum resulting from the concert in March more than $550.

The meetings of the Committee for 1907-08 are to be held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. The first meeting for the season is to be held Monday, November 11th.

MARY L. HOLMES,
Secretary.

REPORT OF TREASURER WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

MAY 1ST TO JUNE 1ST, 1907

RECEIPTS

Chelsea donation	$80.00
Per cent. Chelsea District dues	29.00
Greenwich donation / Greenwich balance per cent. dues	59.50
Heights donation	25.00
Heights per cent. dues	10.30
Annual subscription Miss Day, credited to House account by mistake	25.00
Deficit	1.84
	$230.64

DISBURSEMENTS

Rent—April and May	100.00
Salary, Assistant Secretary	75.00
Office expenses	15.00
Deficit	$40.64
	$230.64

(Signed) CATHARINE S. LEVERICH,
Treasurer.

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THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

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July—August, 1907

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WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. V. JULY-AUGUST, 1907 NO. 12

The Department of Street Cleaning

The good news is that MacDonough Craven, the very incompetent Commissioner of this important department, is no longer in office, and the Woman's Municipal League stands on record as the only organization which carried its investigations of the Street Cleaning Department to a logical conclusion and demanded the removal by the Mayor of the Commissioner, who was proven incompetent in every particular. He was in office from November, 1906, until the early part of May, 1907, before he was taken ill, and in all those months of health he did not demonstrate fitness for the position in any particular. A strike of the drivers in the Street Cleaning Department so emphasized his incompetency that he was allowed to resign, it being a convenient season to drop the official who was too heavy a load of unfitness for the administration to carry. His successor, Dr. Walter Bensel, Superintendent of the Sanitary Department of the Board of Health, who unfortunately will only consent to serve for three months, proved from the first his eminent fitness for the position. Among other promptly instituted reforms has been the operation of much of the work of the Department at night and the intelligent use of sweeping machines. Dr. Bensel suggests the late Colonel Waring in his resourcefulness, his energy and his loyal service. The civic organizations owe it to those who support them to make every endeavor to prevent the Street Cleaning Department from falling again into the hands of political henchmen.

Tuberculosis and Milk

Distinct progress was made in the fight against tuberculosis at the Congress of the American Anti-Tuberculosis League held in Atlantic City June 1-4.

Prevention was the key-note of the meeting at which eminent scientists pointed out the conclusive evidence that the way to prevent consumption is to kill the tubercle bacilli in the milk supply by pasteurization. This League was organized at the Hotel Majestic, New York City, in 1901, and is the oldest national association enlisted in the warfare against tuberculosis.

Dr. George Brown, of Atlanta, Surgeon General of the State of Georgia, who has been active in pressing the work of the League, retired from the presidency of the Atlantic City meeting, and was succeeded by Dr. Florince O. Donohue, of Syracuse, N. Y., former Health Commissioner of the State.

Dr. Donohue read a paper on tuberculosis in milk in which he brought up to date the record of the discoveries and demonstrations of the perils of infected milk, and showed conclusively that it is a common cause of tuberculosis.

Dr. E. C. Schroeder, the Federal expert, wrote of the recent important results by experiments at Bethesda, Md., which showed that there is no more active agent for the dissemination of tuberculosis than milk drawn from tuberculous cows or from cows in herds among which there are infected cattle.

Dr. C. W. Saleeby, of London, declared that it was homicide to give a child raw milk.

Mr. Nathan Straus, the New York philanthropist, emphasized three facts, namely:

First—That tuberculosis is a preventable disease.

Second—That raw milk is the common cause of tuberculosis.

Third—That the peril of tuberculosis in milk can be absolutely removed by proper pasteurization.

Citing the statistics of the ravages of tuberculosis in New York City, Mr. Straus said:

"It is unthinkable that this slaughter should go on unchecked, when science has laid its finger on the common cause of infection, pointing to the tubercle bacilli in the milk bottle.

"But the ravages of this disease will go on until every mother knows that it is a crime to give her child raw milk and until the health authorities recognize that their first duty is to prevent the people, practically all of whom use raw milk, trying to subsist upon a diet of consumption germs."

At the conclusion of the meeting the following statement was issued:

"At the conclusion of the sessions of the American Anti-Tuberculosis League, held in Atlantic City, June 1-4, the following resolutions were adopted:

"Whereas, The common cause of tuberculosis is the use of raw milk drawn from or in the environment of tuberculous cows,

"Resolved, That it is the duty of the public authorities to weed out all tuberculous cattle by the use of the tuberculin test, and

"Resolved, That all milk supplies should be properly pasteurized unless the milk is produced from herds guaranteed to be free from tuberculosis and handled so as to be secure from infection."

"The League urges as of the utmost importance to the public, that the newspapers inform the people,

"First—That tuberculosis is a preventable disease, no infection being possible except by the entrance of the germ into the human system.

"Second—That pasteurization of the milk supplies will remove the common cause of tuberculosis by destroying the tubercle bacilli commonly contained in raw milk.

"Third—That ordinary, reasonable precautions will practically remove the lesser danger of infection from tuberculosis patients.

"In making this statement the League cites as an example the work of Hon. Nathan Straus, the New York philanthropist, who for fifteen years has been demonstrating the value and efficacy of pasteurization and has done more than any other man to check the great white plague in his city, by putting within the reach of the poor milk that has been freed by pasteurization from the germs of tuberculosis.

"While the National Association for the Study of Tuberculosis is doing an important work in dealing with the treatment of consumption, but is restrained by its dominant factors from attacking the source of the plague, this League, having no remedies to exploit, is devoting its ener-

gies to the prevention and stamping out of the plague by the removal of the causes of infection.

"In this campaign, the co-operation of medical men, health officers, public-spirited citizens and humanitarian societies is invited.

"For the purpose of fighting consumption throughout the country centers of work have been established in St. Louis, Atlanta, Ga., and New York City, and correspondence is invited with the president of the League, or with the local officers."

LIST OF OFFICERS.

FLORINCE O. DONOHUE, M.D., President, Syracuse, N. Y.

W. H. MAYFIELD, M.D., Secretary, St. Louis, Mo.

GEORGE BROWN, M.D., Vice-President, Atlanta, Ga.

WM. WIRT MILLS, Vice-President, West New Brighton, N. Y.

MRS. JOSEPHINE REDDING, Secretary, Woman's Auxiliary, Spuyten Duyvil, N. Y.

Reports of Committees

HOUSE.

This Committee has to report amicable relations with tenants and a satisfactory closing of the unfinished business turned over to this Committee by the Central Committee. This consisted of League funds in the custody of Miss Arthur and Miss Hoy's negotiations with the Woman's University Club.

The rentals for the Assembly Room have been raised, the lowest rates now being $6 and $3 respectively for the front and middle rooms. Full information as to the revised schedule of rates may be had at the office of the League.

The Committee has had the cellar thoroughly cleared of refuse and whitewashed, an undertaking of considerable magnitude.

Arrangements have been made whereby House Committee matters will be looked after throughout the entire summer.

Respectfully submitted,
J. REDDING,
Acting Secretary of Committee.

LEGISLATION.

This Committee met on June 11th. Owing to the lateness of the season only the Chairman, Mrs. Loines, and Miss Hart were present. A statement from the Women's Prison Association was considered in regard to the Dobb's bill 1585, "To amend the New York City charter in relation to Police Matrons."

It provides for an arbitrary increase of matrons in station houses, putting three matrons in each, regardless of the fact that in some there are only twelve prisoners per month, while in others there are seven hundred.

A change in salaries and pensions is also provided, the rate being $720 the first year, $800 the second, with an increase of $100 each year until the maximum $1,200 is reached; instead of the uniform rate of $1,000 as at present. The pension on retirement is increased from $500 to $800 per year. This means a heavy increase to the taxpayer.

The bill also provides for a chief matron whose salary shall be $2,000, an unnecessary expense and an office liable to be open to abuses.

The Chairman of this Committee agreed to attend the hearing before the Mayor on the 11th, but an important Committee meeting at the same hour made it impossible. A letter disapproving of this bill has been sent to the Mayor. The bill introduced by the Women's Prison Association for a state farm is still in the hands of the Committee at Albany, and there is little possibility of a hearing. The McCarren School Teacher-er's bill, and known as the White bill

since its amendments in the Senate Committee, and which was passed by both Senate and Assembly, vetoed by the Mayor and passed over the Mayor's veto by Senate and Assembly May 15th and 16th, has since been vetoed by the Governor. Governor Hughes, while recognizing some injustice in the present scale of salaries, considers that there are too many points involved to make this bill desirable. While the lobbying tactics of the teachers at Albany have been rather widely condemned, the general agitation on the subject has undoubtedly been productive of good, and may lead to greater fairness in the adjustment of salaries and to a return to the old rate of apportionment of taxation for schools of four mills instead of three.

This Committee also heartily endorses the action of the Governor in vetoing the Frawley bill which permits amateur boxing exhibitions.

Senate bill 224, Sohmer, to prohibit hospitals from transferring patients in dying condition, has passed both houses and been signed by the Governor.

The Bridge Loop bill to relieve Bridge crush, Assembly 309, Dowling, passed Assembly and Senate, but has been vetoed by the Governor. It was considered that this method would not give the best relief and would take too much air and light from a crowded tenement-house district.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY H. LOINES,
Acting Chairman.

ICE WATER.

The memorial fountain erected by Miss Charlotte Lane is in place near the Salvation Army Hotel, Chatham Square. I. and R. Lamb made a most beautiful brass tablet at a cost of $200, the plumbing expenses being $150.

The fountain at the Florence Crittendon Mission, 23 Bleecker Street, is also in operation; cost, $155.90. A new one, the gift of Mr. Glen Wright, in memory of Isabel Noyes Wright, is in process of construction, and when finished will be placed in the Salvation Army Mission at 94 Cherry Street, which is an admirable location.

HARRIET A. DILLINGHAM,
Chairman.

Reports of Branches

CHELSEA.

The last meeting for the season of the Chelsea Branch was held early in May, many of our members at that early date having left the city. A neighborhood conference was called in the winter to hurry the work on Chelsea Park and to obtain a popular opinion as to the best equipment of the Park for the neighborhood. Comparison was made of the city's plan and one made by Mr. Chas. Lamb. Mrs. Herbert, Chairman of the Park Committee, and Mrs. Fred Lamb represented the Chelsea Committee at the conference. Mrs. Herbert expects to modify the city's plan along the lines of Mr. Lamb's chart. Mrs. Lamb, with others, has hastened the work of tearing down the buildings and the block now is entirely cleared.

Last winter several reports came to us of disorderly conduct near the outer wall of the General Theological Seminary in West Twenty-second Street, during the summer months when the grounds are dark, and the buildings untenanted. This spring we asked Dean Robbins to assist us in an effort to get the city to adequately light this block. We are gratified to report the following letter in answer to the last one written by the Chairman of the committee:

MRS. H. C. BACKUS:

Dear Madam—Replying to your communication of recent date, I would say upon the report of our inspector that this Department has decided to

remove the gas lamps in use on Twentieth and Twenty-first Streets, and place in their stead three electric-arc lamps in each block and one on the corner. Subways will have to be built in both streets, as there are none there at present, and this, of course, will take some little time.

Respectfully,

F. J. Goodwin.

This is a very prompt, intelligent disposition of the subject, and a letter of thanks has been returned from the Chelsea Committee.

Complaints have come to us of the excessive use of "flat-wheeled" trolley cars on Eighth and Ninth Avenues. Miss Reynolds, who is in charge of the matter and the Chairman, has written Commissioner Darlington, and his secretary answered, saying the matter would be investigated and suitable action taken. We have sought the co-operation of the Alderman, property-holders, and several organizations, and hope to effect an improvement in regard to the flat-wheel nuisance, as it would seem that the discarded cars of every other line had been removed to these avenues.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet I. Backus,
Chairman.

Suggested Joint Committee

The Woman's Auxiliary to the Civil Service Reform Association, through its Secretary, Miss Emily J. Hutchinson, suggested that members of the Woman's Municipal League and those of the Auxiliary form a Joint Committee for the furtherance of the objects of the Civil Service Reform Associations' propaganda. The Central Committee of the League regarded the proposal with great favor, and Mrs. Frederic Longfellow, who was in the chair, was empowered to appoint representatives on the Joint Committee. The Auxiliary, which has been in existence for twelve years, has done excellent work in advancing the cause of Civil Service Reform, the latest report of the Executive Committee showing the Auxiliary to be a very active body. The work for the past year was largely educational through the schools in different parts of the country, women's clubs, and individual correspondents, to whom have been sent primers and other literature. Another important educational movement was the organizing of classes in as many Settlements as possible to meet for the discussion of the history of the Civic Service in the United States. The boys are said to have shown a real interest in these meetings, and in three of the Settlements they voted to hold competitions among themselves for the medal offered by the Auxiliary for the best paper on certain designated topics concerning the Civil Service and the Merit Systems. The Auxiliary is planning to influence the introduction of municipal civic instruction into the public schools and to extend in other directions a knowledge of the principles of this great reform.

It is the hope and aim of those interested in this Auxiliary and those also identified with the main Society that the Civil Service rules shall cover such positions as the heads of municipal departments—health, street cleaning, and police—for example.

The Auxiliary publishes a volume on the Bibliography of Civil Service Reform and Related Subjects, brought out originally in 1900, which has been thoroughly revised this year. A map showing the extent of the Civil Service Reform movement in the United States and a full index help to make this very practical work additionally valuable and useful.

Janitors' Association

The Woman's Municipal League was asked by Mr. Robert Simon, treasurer of the Janitors' Association,

to aid that organization in its very worthy work in behalf of the much-put-upon janitors of the East Side. The Society, which was formed in 1901 at the suggestion of the Educational Alliance, is at the moment endeavoring to secure the rescinding of an amendment to the section in the Sanitary Code which relates to the separation of garbage. At this writing (and for some time previous) this more or less unpleasant duty is made to devolve on the janitor, and it is the very reasonable aim of the Society to make the tenant responsible for the separation. In any tenement house (and there are about 80,000 dwellings in New York that come under this title) it is neither sanitary nor just that the time of the janitor should be spent in the disgusting process of separating scores of garbage messes from ashes, especially as in some localities it is not alone the garbage of the kitchen that is sent down. Consider the state of the cellar in which the daily separation is carried on, and the effect on the health and the personal cleanliness of the janitor. It is a comparatively easy matter for each tenant to separate the garbage in the course of daily domestic operations. Another aim of the Janitors' Association is to have the municipality take over the work of the Sanitary Utilization Company, which now pays the city a certain sum for the garbage without the ashes. The Association wishes the municipality to reap the very great annual profit now made by the Utilization Company, and by applying these funds to the Department of Street Cleaning to reduce the cost of that department to the taxpayers of the city. The Woman's Municipal League has supported the Janitors' Association in its efforts to have the ordinance concerning garbage separation changed and in its suggestion that the municipality take over the activities of the Sanitary Utilization Company, and through correspondence and conference sought to interest influential metropolitan journals and groups of social workers in the intelligent and well-directed efforts of the Association to improve the condition and the efficiency of the 80,000 janitors in Greater New York. The secretary of the Association is Michael Brown, and he can be addressed at the office, 215 East Broadway.

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

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WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. VI. SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1907 No. 1

The regular Monthly Meeting of the League will be held on Thursday, October 17, at 11 a.m., at the Headquarters of the League, 19 East 26th Street.

HON. P. TECUMSEH SHERMAN, Ex-Commissioner of Labor for New York will speak on "Some Phases of the Congestion of Population in New York City."

JOSEPHINE REDDING, *Secretary.*

Some Aspects of New York from the Viewpoint of a League Member

Chelsea Lighting

The block between Ninth and Tenth Avenues, in Twentieth and Twenty-first Streets, was visited in mid-September to ascertain whether the new lights had been installed which were promised by the city to the Chelsea L. I. D. of the W. M. L., as a protection against unfortunate conditions reported by the Chelsea Branch, and felt to be due to the darkness of the streets in this locality. Eight lofty arc lights of the latest design were counted on these two blocks and around the corner of Tenth Avenue, which must give adequate illumination for all that section. The lights were reported, upon inquiry, to have been installed during the summer, and to have been in operation "about a month." The streets and sidewalks bordering the General Theological Seminary grounds were conspiculously uncared for, drifts of straw, manure and other refuse blowing in all directions.

Chelsea Park

It having been reported at the office of the League during the summer that some of the buildings which the city had undertaken to pull down, preparatory to converting the space, Ninth to Tenth Avenue, Twenty-seventh to Twenty-eighth Streets, into a public park, to be known as Chelsea Park, were still standing, the matter was investigated. Every building, with the exception of Public School No. 33, it was found, has been razed, though there is still considerable debris, in the form of old bricks and twisted iron and tin, which will no doubt have to be carted off before the leveling process is begun. Evidently the neighborhood, or some portion of it, has faith in the ultimate accomplishment of the fact on the part of the city authorities, as a diminutive barber shop facing the open space bears the prophetic legend, "Chelsea Park Tonsorial Parlor." Several shopkeepers, who were consulted further down Tenth Avenue as to the exact location of the proposed park, knew nothing of such an enterprise. One opposite the "park" (by courtesy) assured the interlocur that all the buildings were down last February, but seemed skeptical as to the probability of the park's being an accomplished fact under two years. Between fifty and sixty children were counted, wandering and playing their games (ball and tag) over the uneven surface and in the cellar holes, and made one realize what a boon green grass will be to the neighborhood, especially if it can serve as a playground.

Model Tenements

As the Prince of Sweden was taken to inspect the model tenements at Forty-second Street and Tenth Avenue, this group was selected for observation, assuming that the most up-to-date would naturally have been shown a foreign, especially a royal, visitor. Upon inquiry at the Renting Office in Forty-second Street, it was learned that this group was erected some eight years ago, and that there are several more recent buildings on the upper East Side better worth spending time to inspect in detail, as showing progress in providing improvements and additional comforts at about the same rental. For instance, the newer dwellings have private baths, either shower, or tub for the better grade, roof gardens, steam heat and hot water. The Tenth Avenue tenements provide public shower baths only and are not steam-heated.

Phipps' Houses

It seemed wise to visit also the most recently-erected model dwellings, as a means of observing the progress made in this form of housing. The tenements at 325 East Thirty-first Street are the first to be built from the trust fund established by Mr. Henry Phipps, and were opened in February last, 1907. It is emphasized, that this enterprise is not a charity, but "an effort to prove that comfortable accommodation can be offered at prevailing rentals and yet pay a just return on the money invested." The fund is large, and it is proposed to erect other houses when and where the need is proved. That need must be already apparent to the Trustees, it would seem, since the 142 apartments are already occupied, and a waiting list of 150 has been recorded at the offices. No new names are being received.

The rent includes steam heat, hot water, shower or tub baths, laundries, a roof garden, and light, airy rooms. All interior courts and airshafts have been done away with. The tenements are intended for weekly wage-earners, not for persons who can afford to pay higher rents. We were told at the office, however, that there are at present a great many in occupancy who should not be, economically speaking, that any number of bachelor business men have applied, but that the preference is always given to women and children. Dogs are prohibited, but cats and babies are unlimited. The tenements are rented on a weekly lease. The halls are immaculate and a dumb-waiter on each landing serves the three families whose apartments open thereon.

A surprising feature for that grade of dwelling is the built-in clothes closet, which is a luxury not often found in much higher-priced houses.

The roof is divided by a neat green fence, into a washing or rather drying ground, and a rest garden, with shrubs, pergola, benches and fountain. The anchoring ground of the New York Yacht Club, at the foot of the street, two blocks away, was a fascinating sight. Nine beautiful steam yachts were counted. Each house has a kindergarten and playroom for children, and a baby carriage house, on the ground floor. The windows opening on the wide-open courts, as well as those on the streets, have broad sills, enclosed by low wrought-iron fences, and as most of these are filled with growing plants and flowers, the effect is very pleasing. The people occupying the house are a quiet, respectable class, mostly business women, nurses, stenographers, etc., and if an undesirable person gets in, who proves an annoyance to the neighbors, he or she is asked to leave. Some of the worst tenement houses in the city formerly occupied this site, and this location was chosen partly as an excuse for getting rid of the dreadful conditions prevailing there.

Mis na Wo of Civ Cl

On turning the corner from First Avenue to East Thirty-first Street, a number of young trees were noticed set out on either side of the street, some six or eight in all, each enclosed in wire netting, and bearing the following inscription on a tin sign attached to the tree:

"This tree is given to the children of this street. Be its friend. Civic Club."

Public Baths

On East Twenty-fourth Street is a handsome new building, almost completed, which will furnish free baths to that needy neighborhood. There was no one among the workmen who could give information as to when the building will be open to the public, how many baths can be given a day, etc., but no doubt thousands can be accommodated in the great number of showers, tubs and swimming pool. Twenty minutes is the time limit allowed each bather, and "only married women are allowed to use the tubs," we learn from a girl who is accustomed to use a similar bath on the West Side. Each bather brings his own soap and towel, and is provided with a small compartment in which to dress, with an individual shower in an adjoining space. A beautiful tiled swimming pool connects with both the men's and women's quarters, but is doubtless used on separate days by the different sexes. The appointments and equipment are perfect, and every provision to insure cleanliness has evidently been thought of. The floors are all of cement tiling, with frequent drains to allow of flooding, and there are no angles to collect dirt, all baseboards having curved bases, and all window ledges curved edges, etc.

Straus' Milk Booths

The Straus Milk Booth on this particular Recreation Pier, is at the foot of East Twenty-fourth Street. A delivery wagon was bringing a fresh supply of Pasteurized milk in bulk and taking away the empty nursing bottles as we arrived. Upon inquiring of the middle-aged woman in charge of the booth, situated at the top of the stairs, as one enters, as to how many one-cent glasses of the milk they dispose of on an average day, it was learned that two thousand was not an unusual amount. The milk is ladled into a good-sized glass from a large wooden tub, which contains the milk cans. Half-pint bottles, of the measuring nursing variety, are sold for five cents, four cents of which is a deposit on the bottle, which may be redeemed when the bottle is returned.

Recreation Pier, East 24th Street

Realizing that one could not expect to find many children on the Recreation Piers during school hours, the visit was timed for late in the afternoon, on as warm a day as we have had this summer, hoping to find everything in full swing.

Upon arrival, it was seen that the attendance must have fallen off tremendously, as we counted but five children during our entire stay, and while some two hundred or more of the bench seats were occupied, they were almost without exception the class of boozy, sleeping loafers, both men and women, who make our small parks a nightmare. Three neatly dressed women were pointed out as "matrons," and upon referring inquiries to them, they in turn sent us to an attendant in gray uniform, who proved to be an intelligent Irishman with a rich brogue. From him we learned that the pier is open from 8 A. M. to 11 P. M. That there is band music every night from 8 to 10.30. That they have had as many as 11,000 people at a time on the pier. That there are, of course, not enough seats to accommodate the great crowds, but the people enjoy promenading to the music, and often, when a solid mass of humanity is moving around in the promenade, there are many vacant seats, showing that they are without seats, from preference. Two policemen are stationed at the pier during the crowded hours, one below and one upstairs. That formerly each pier had eight, but that the new Commissioner has cut down the force at such a rate that one man has to handle all that vast crowd. When asked if they have much disorderly conduct, he replied, "O, sometimes a lot of hoodlums, mostly young boys who think it's smart, start in to make trouble, but we soon get rid of them." There are no benches on the ground floor of the pier, and the mothers and children are allowed to sit on the string-piece. Two lifesavers patrol the lower floor to rescue anyone who may chance to fall or

jump in. The crowds are greatest in the evenings, when the band plays, though on a hot day the mothers bring their children almost as soon as the doors are opened, and stay until they are closed at night. There is no form of entertainment except the concerts. The bands play mostly popular music, though it varies somewhat with the different conductors, as they change posts from time to time.

The walls along the stairs show evidences of vandalism, being badly scribbled, and the rubber treads on several of the steps are loose, and are decidedly dangerous, especially in a crowd when one cannot see where one is going, and might easily trip and plunge forward.

Playgrounds

Public School No. 1 is one of the largest schools in the city and is situated in one of the most populous foreign sections. The city maintains an afternoon playground and gymnasium for boys and men, on the roof of the building, with a physical instructor in attendance, and some simple gymnastic apparatus. The roof is open to others in the evenings (six each week) with band concerts.

The Jacob Riis House, in the next block, has opened a playground on the roof of the gymnasium which was built two years ago in the back yards of the dwellings occupied by the Settlement at 48 Henry Street. Only girls and very small boys are admitted. The floor is cement, surrounded by a green wire grating, with green wooden window boxes at intervals, which may have been aglow with scarlet geraniums and golden glow earlier in the season, but which show the effects of the atmosphere in that crowded section, on even such hardy plants. Six stationary swings and a number of benches complete the equipment. There is no attendant, but the playground is supervised from the windows of the house and is under constant surveillance. Regular classes are about to begin in the Roosevelt Gymnasium below, which is finely equipped, including running track and basket-ball outfit.

Public School No. 2, at 116 Henry Street, is open to mothers and babies, afternoons during vacation. Swings and sand-piles are also provided in the school yard. Largely frequented.

Chila Cour

Court is held every day, and lasts only as long as there are cases to be considered. The Judges of the Court of Special Sessions serve in rotation. A child who is arrested is never taken to a station house, but is taken at once to the S. P. C. C., and his family, environment, and history investigated by a paid probation officer of the Society. This report is presented to the Magistrate at the time the child is brought before him for trial, and all conditions being considered, the child is either paroled in the custody of its parents, if they have been found to be worthy, or committed to some institution. Some are taken back to the Society. The parents are responsible for his good behavior during his parole, though each is under the observation of the Society, and a report is again returned to the Court at the expiration of his parole. It is mandatory that at the end of the parole period the child appear in court. The report of the parole officer is then submitted to the Judge, and aided by this, the Court determines whether to continue the parole, suspend sentence or commit to an institution. "The records show that about 84 per cent. of all the children placed on parole since the beginning of the Court (1902) have made such favorable progress morally and materially that the Court finally released them either by discharge or suspension of sentence."

The Children's Court has jurisdiction, except in homicide cases, of all children under the age of 16 taken in custody in Manhattan and the Bronx.

Iowa Fonta

Observation of the use made of the new fountain erected at Chatham Square this summer, near Salvation Army Hotel, showed the two dippers in continuous use, by men exclusively, during the five or ten minutes of our stay. Several appeared to be passing pedestrians, one or two evidently loafers, while a number of others were drivers who stopped their horses to

dismount and get a drink. Two expressmen, a driver of a street cleaning cart, a hackman and several moving men were among the number. One could not help feeling that if such refreshment had not been within reach, they were the very class of men who would have paid a visit to some corner saloon instead. The fountain seemed to be in excellent running order, and while we were unable to talk with anyone who could give us information as to its operation during the summer, we judge from its appearance that it has not been abused in any way. The inscription reads: "To the Glory of God, and in the loving memory of J. Henry Lane, erected by his sister, C. T. L., A. D. 1907. A cup of cold water in His name."

Mariners' Temple.—There was no evidence of any fountain having been in use here during the summer, and we were unable to find anyone who could give us information on the subject.

The fountain at Florence Crittenton Mission is also a new one installed at the beginning of this summer. It is by no means so satisfactory a type as the others inspected. The fountain is attached to the iron fence railing in front of the Mission and the sidewalk at the right of the entrance steps is in a frightfully sloppy condition. The faucet is out of repair and is reported to allow the water to run when not in use. The basin is a much deeper one than the others, and had become clogged so that it was more than half full of stagnant water. The Resident Superintendent, with whom we talked, said the basin is in an almost chronic state of stoppage, and that it has been necessary to have a plumber several times this summer to clear out the debris which the boys have thrown in. That owing to the stoppage, the water collects in the basin and is always in a filthy state, the children washing their hands, and even their bare feet at times, and we ourselves saw that both dippers lay in this unspeakable drainage when not in use. Fruit skins, straws and other refuse floated on the surface. The Superintendent had been away all summer, but understands from those in charge during her absence that there has been the expected annoyance from wet sidewalk and throwing of water into their dining-room windows, but in spite of all drawbacks she should be sorry not to see it continued another summer, as it is an undoubted boon to the neighborhood, and there is no doubt that it is appreciated by a certain proportion of the community.

The Mission formerly maintained an indoors ice-cooler in their hallway, but have discontinued it since the erection of the W. M. L. fountain.

The Superintendent, Mrs. Freeman, raised the question whether this form of fountain is the best, under the circumstances, and asked if a more sanitary form could not be utilized, as, for instance, that which is used without drinking cups, where the water bubbles up and is constantly carried off.

At the Church of the Sea and Land, 61 Henry Street, the janitor told us with regret that the faucet and both dippers were stolen from this fountain about two weeks ago. The basin was half filled with sawdust and sand and the face of the tablet was disfigured by markings in colored chalks or paint. The janitor said that nothing is safe from "them East Side people" and that they had had a similar experience in former years. He said that certain families sent regularly at meal times for a pail or pitcher of the ice-water, and there is no doubt whatever that it is a great blessing to the community. He told of having noticed how much more the street is used as a thoroughfare for heavy trucking since the fountain was installed. That he frequently has seen a row of trucks standing in front in the early morning, while their drivers dismounted for the sole purpose of getting a drink, and driving on at once. He spoke of the annoyance of having the children scatter the water over the sidewalks, even throwing into their basement windows, some distance away, but advocates its continuance for the sake of those who do

benefit by it, in spite of all abuse. He thinks the adults of the neighborhood appreciate it more than the children, and has seen many a child whipped on the spot by an irate father for some depredation in connection with the fountain.

An Evening at the Night Court

Three members of the League recently attended a session of the Night Court held in Jefferson Market Police Court, Judge Breen presiding. Through the courtesy of the Court places on the platform were given to the League visitors, where they had every opportunity to see and hear all that occurred. They remained until midnight.

They remained in the court-room about two hours and during that time fifty persons were brought before the Judge. Of these twenty-three were women arrested for soliciting. If the woman had never been arrested before the Judge released her, admonishing her that she never again make herself liable to arrest. If, however, the culprit had been previously arrested, he fined her $3. This seems a wiser fine than the old one of $10, as it is not large enough to encourage a corrupt policeman to demand money to prevent arrest. One of the women fined had no money, and accordingly she was locked up. Two girls who were very young, claimed that they were innocent girls, who had solicited at the time of arrest, because they wanted money "to buy a suit." They were given into the care of the probation officer for six months. She thought she could get work for them, and if they were willing to live a decent life she would make it possible for them to do so.

About the most pathetic experience of the whole session was the answer of two girls, "Judge, I am a prostitute, but I wasn't doing anything then." The horror of it was, that these foreign women considered that they were in a legitimate business, and had no thought of moral responsibility in the matter. The Judge trusted generally to the prisoner to tell him whether this was the first time of arrest, and it was surprising how many confessed to having been arrested previously. Several said "last night."

There were eight cases of intoxication. In these cases, if the prisoners were sufficiently sober to get home, the Judge dismissed them, after a reprimand which was suited to the individual circumstances. If they were still so drunk that they could not take care of themselves, they were sent back to a cell until morning. One drunken man claimed that he had been celebrating the birth of a little daughter. Another, that his girl had died the week before, and he was overcome with grief. A woman gave as an excuse that she had a quarrel with her husband. In each case, the Judge tried to impress upon the prisoner that getting drunk was the exact opposite to showing respect, either to wife, husband or deceased fiancée.

There were two cases of peddling candy on the streets without a license. In both cases the prisoners were very young foreigners, who explained, through the interpreter, that they did not know the law. They were dismissed with the injunction to get a license.

There were three cases of drivers—one who had driven on the wrong side of the street, one who had left his wagon standing while he went into a saloon, and one driver of a hansom cab accused of running into an automobile! This case created some amusement, as the usual experience is the reverse. The drivers were dismissed with directions to be more careful.

A chauffeur arrested for speeding was fined $5.

There were two arrests for fighting. As in each case the prisoner seemed to have suffered considerably, they were dismissed with a reprimand.

There were ten cases of various classes of street obstruction, or making a disturbance. One man had jumped on a car to the danger of

himself and other passengers; one, through the window of a car in a Coney Island crowd. They were advised to use the door in future.

A man arrested for begging was held until his case could be investigated by C. O. S.

The only case in which counsel appeared for the prisoner was that of a woman arrested as the keeper of a disorderly house. Two policemen had entered with her permission, and had seen sights in the house that warranted the arrest. The woman was required to furnish $500 bail.

It seemed to your committee that the Night Court must be of great advantage as a relief to the day court, and in enabling people, who have been dismissed from the Court, to reach their homes in the early night, and thus relieve the anxiety of their relatives. There were several such cases on this night among the men and women arrested. The man who said he had a sick wife and young baby,—the man who said he had an old mother,—the woman who said she had a family with a baby nine months old,—if they obeyed the Judge and went immediately home they would have reached their destinations before midnight.

The Judge seemed kind, just and discriminating with "a saving sense of humor."

If we should offer any criticism it would be that the policemen in every case seemed to be on trial; and if the officer had done his duty as he saw it, even if he had made a mistake, the Judge's ruling in some cases must have seemed to him very hard. When the blame seemed undoubtedly just, the Judge was not too severe. One such case was when a policeman had arrested a man who had run to the assistance of a woman whom the policeman was taking to the station house. He was in citizen's clothes, and the woman, as she expressed it, "was making a holler."

The whole experience emphasized what we have all along known, that under present conditions there seems no way to diminish the social evil. The requirements for evidence make it almost impossible to get, and even if conviction is secured, of what use is a fine? It only means more sin.

A Vital Civic Matter

Especial attention is invited to the following communication from the Citizens' Union:

The Citizens' Union, having secured the enactment of the bill permitting the re-organizing of the Municipal Court, does not intend to stop with the passage of the legislation. It has already taken steps to influence the nomination of candidates for the fifteen judicial positions to be filled in Manhattan and The Bronx this election. It invited to a conference the City Club, the People's Institute, the Independent Club, the East Side Civic Club, the Bar Association, and the Woman's Municipal League, and a number of other civic organizations. A committee was immediately appointed to investigate concerning the candidates, and a larger committee of fifty is to be appointed to make the decision and report of this committee effective. The Woman's Municipal League will have another splendid opportunity of co-operating in a most important municipal movement that needs the earnest support of every civic organization. The various district organizations will doubtless be asked to lend their aid in the canvass that will have to be made in some districts to defeat the bad men and elect the good ones. In the meanwhile the politicians will take warning.

Research Department
— OF —
The Woman's Municipal League

Report of Research Department

Banks and Steamship Ticket Laws.

The steamship ticket bill and banking bill went into effect September 1st. No steps have been taken to obtain their enforcement. The steamship tickets sold since September 1st have not had time to have passage on them refused. We want a good case showing hardship so we can test the constitutionality of the law, as the opposition are intending to do this and will of course select a case favorable to them. Comptroller Glynn will send this office the list of banks that have given a bond and will send us the new names from time to time. Then we can begin to look up those not bonded, and fake bonds. Until that time we should be simply flooding the Comptroller's office with bonded bankers, not knowing they had become such.

Since these subjects are not entirely research and will require the effective backing of many men, it is recommended that the secretary be empowered to confer with Mr. Marks, of the Immigrant Welfare Department of the National Civic Federation, for a joint campaign. Last year the following committee of the Federation co-operated in passing the bill: Marcus M. Marks, Chairman, Eliot Norton, Julius M. Mayer, Louis Marshall, Richard Watson Gilder, Louis Lande, William H. Allen, Louis Wiley, Thomas M. Mulry, Samuel Straus, William Blau, Timothy Healy, Robert E. Simon, Abm. L. Gutman, James H. Hamilton, Benjamin Tuska, Eugene S. Benjamin, Lee K. Frankel, John DeWitt Warner, Henry Moskowitz, Thomas M. Slocum, David Robinson, James P. Archibald, Gino C. Speranza, Joseph Ullman and Frances A. Kellor. This year the Federation has offered to form a permanent committee to take up the fight. The present laws were only intended as a beginning. The banks should eventually be under the regulation of the banking department, and the steamship ticket brokers licensed and regulated by some central state body.

Immigration.

The study of Brooklyn conditions is under a separate fund. The Prospect Branch of the Woman's Municipal League of Brooklyn pays for the investigator and visitor, and Adelphi College gives a joint fellowship for the general study. A statistical study of the numbers going to Brooklyn, location, occupations, conditions, etc., will be made by the fellow and the visitor will find and report on special cases. It is hoped this may lead to the establishment of a center for immigrant girls in Brooklyn. Miss MacLean will supervise the work of the fellow and Miss Fried that of the investigator.

During the past two months the greater part of Miss Fried's time has been devoted to the preparation of her first annual report, which includes the study of about 5,000 girls and the friendly visiting work of many of them. This will be submitted at the next regular meeting.

The plan of work to be discussed at the meeting of the special immigration committee at its next regular meeting will be as follows:

The quarters at No. 40 Stuyvesant Street have been given up as the work is better directed from one center. It is proposed to have this branch of the work fit in with that outlined for the State. Miss Fried will have one Jewish and one Slav investigator to begin the year, and one investigator for Brooklyn, and will make the connec-

tions for friendly visiting herself. This year care is exercised in making lists of married women. Such names will be placed on the list only when the destination indicates that the woman so situated may need a helping hand. An attempt will be made to develop a correspondence system for locating the girls and bringing them into touch with our headquarters. For this purpose we are developing a series of co-operative centers. Miss Fried and the visitors will meet the girls there on regular evenings and at other times when in need of help the girls will be encouraged to go there. Miss Wald, of the Nurses Settlement, has offered the use of the Henry Street and uptown house for such centers one evening a week. Efforts are being made to get other centers in both Manhattan and Brooklyn. This year the study will not be so much of conditions as of distribution and friendly visiting.

While not New York work it will interest the Department to know that the names of unmarried immigrant women are sent to Chicago and visited in the same way as in New York. Mrs. Raymond Robins, of the Women's Trade Union League, supervises and pays for this work. Miss Fried supervises this out-going list, and Chicago and New York share the expense of the clerk who copies the names from the manifest sheets.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLEGE WOMEN.

Joint investigation into the opportunities of college women other than teaching will be begun in October. A fellow from Adelphi College will make the study for New York under Miss MacLean's personal supervision, a Wellesley fellow, under Mrs. Kehew's direction, for Boston, and a fellow at Chicago University, under Miss Breckenridge's direction. This study will be under the general direction of Miss MacLean and Miss Parton of Boston. From time to time reports of the work in New York will be made to the Research Department.

CO-OPERATION.

Miss Kellor is a member of the Committee of Fourteen; during the summer she has urged, supervised and assisted in raising the money for a study of the treatment of women in the magistrates' courts. Some of our investigators have co-operated at special times, such as finding the number of women on the streets and the percentage brought to the night court, etc. The preliminary summary of this report is on file in the office if any member wishes to read it.

Our records on immigrant girls' homes and lodging houses have been placed at the disposal of Miss Dodson, representing the Federal Immigration Commission, and of students representing an investigation in charge of Miss MacLean. Through the banking and steamship work we have the sympathy and co-operation of the National Civic Federation, hitherto rather jealously opposed to us.

We have promised to help New Jersey enforce the new employment agency law and some time during the fall will send an investigator over to study conditions and see how the matter is going. A report will be made to the State Federation of Women's Clubs and to Mrs. Alexander.

PUBLICATIONS.

The first article, of a series of three, on immigrant women appeared in the *Atlantic*, dealing with the domestic service conditions. The second will appear in December and will be on the protection of immigrant women, the third will be on industrial and social conditions and will be based on Miss Fried's study and will appear in the late winter.

An article on the Ethics of Social Research will appear during the fall. This makes a plea for accuracy, co-operation and organization. Reprints of these publications will be sent to all members and contributors.

The study of immigrant women will be published in a separate volume by the Inter-Municipal Research Committee. The Boston study; New York study by Miss Fried, and Philadelphia and Chicago studies will be included. This will be ready for press in December. The Boston study is ready and the others are being prepared.

A volume on the State Protection of Immigrants is in process and will be submitted to President Roosevelt October 28th. Since much of the material was gathered at his request his permission is necessary for publication. The plan is as follows:

STATE AND THE IMMIGRANT.

I. Relation of State to Immigrant. II. Transportation Problems. III. Education and Citizenship. IV. Distribution. V. Employed. VI. Industries. VII. Agriculture. VIII. Protection of Women. IX. Savings and Assignment of Wages.

Two pages each month of THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN will be reserved for the Research Department, and copies will be sent to the members and distributed to contributors and others.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Staff meetings are held each Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock, beginning September 30th, at which all the workers come together and discuss and relate their work. Every member of the Board is invited to meet the workers and discuss the work, and it would be most helpful if they could come in. It is an informal meeting.

We have made application to the Sage Foundation for funds. If this is forthcoming the plan is to use it for the immigration committee and for a study of loan companies and notary publics which defraud and rob the the poor. A study will also be made of domestic workers in apartments, hotels and houses. These subjects were agreed upon last spring.

EXHIBITS.

The Research Department is planning an exhibit for the Congestion Committee, and Miss Kellor is chairman of the sub-committee on exhibits of the Congestion Committee.

The Department will also make an exhibit of its system of records and classification of its work at the meeting of the State Conference of Charities and Corrections which is to be held in Albany in November.

The great defect of the work is the lack of participation by the board members. This may be, in a measure, the fault of the office which has been so busy working on its system. But the time has come this year when the whole work needs the vital help of each member. We want members of the department. If each member of the board would bring in ten members it would enlarge our influence. We want contributors. People who give stand by better. We need people to write and speak for the department. We need to co-operate more with others, and our members can help to bring us into such a relation. We need the visits and suggestions of the wiser heads. The workers in the department need the encouragement, appreciation, sympathy and interest of the members. The investigations are difficult and often unpleasant. Some of the workers are alone and forlorn in New York, and they need the social helpfulness of the homes of our board members and of our Department members. Nothing has done more to make all of the workers feel the spirit of the work than a dinner given by Miss Dreier at her home at the close of the year. Investigators who are out among wretched conditions and ugly facts need these things to maintain their faith in the betterment of conditions and their spirit of work. The members can do many things which will occur to them to get much better results.

We need a counsel. Some lawyer of reputation who will give time to discuss legal questions of investigations.

We also need some economist, or college professor of note, to supervise, or advise with us, regarding certain economic phases of investigation, such as Professor Seligman or Professor Seaver of Columbia. The board can help us in obtaining both of these.

We want a committee on finance and on needs. We find immigrant girls who need clothes in order to appear respectable enough to get work. If some member would place herself in touch with Miss Fried and allow herself to be called on to help out it would be desirable. The demands are not numerous, but Miss Fried has given away most of her clothes in these emergencies. There is not always time or opportunity to appeal to a "charity."

Respectfully submitted,

PENDLETON KENNEDY,
Secretary.

September 26, 1907.

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

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WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. VI. NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1907 No. 2

The annual meeting of members of The Woman's Municipal League will take place at the Headquarters, 19 East 26th Street, on Thursday, November 14, 1907, at 11 a.m.

JOSEPHINE REDDING, *Secretary.*

Factories in the City

The October regular monthly meeting of the League was held on October 14, the speaker of the day being Mr. P. Tecumseh Sherman, ex-Commissioner of Labor for the State of New York.

By request, Mr. Sherman spoke on the factory in relation to the congestion of population in cities. The speaker said in effect:

Ladies: I have been asked to come here this morning to express a few thoughts on the subject of that crowding of New York City which is due to the fact that so many factories are still maintained within the city limits.

In the Middle Ages cities never grew to be very large for the following reasons:

1. Sanitation was ignored and as a consequence many died off.

2. The transportation was so inadequate that provisions could not be brought long distances and consequently large numbers of persons could not congregate in any one place.

During the last century the railroads have made it possible to feed and provide supplies for large segregations of population. Large cities grew principally on account of commerce, as this requires the meeting together of large numbers of people, and depends for its success upon steamships and railroads. There is no essential reason why factories should be situated in cities; on the contrary the expense of land in cities tends to keep them away. However, as a matter of fact, we have undergone another change in this regard. In the Middle Ages the journeyman, the manufacturer of that day, had to be near his customer. We have a survival of this in our local shoemaker, cabinet maker, etc. Then came steam and much that was formerly handmade is now constructed with the aid of machinery; the journeyman not being able to compete individually with mechanism was forced to go into the factory. At first these factories were not in the cities, but as commerce increased it was necessary that they be in places convenient to railroad transportation, and as each factory stimulated the coming of subsidiary and competing factories to secure that class of workmen, manufacturing cities, such as Chicago, Pittsburg, Fall River, etc., naturally grew up.

Hence we have the commercial and the manufacturing cities, although the commercial city must have a certain amount of manufacturing in it. It must have the manufacturing which can be done most conveniently at that point. Another consideration is that commercial cities are frequently at a

point where materials can be best obtained.

Now New York is primarily a commercial, but it is at the same time one of the largest manufacturing cities in the world. It has more people engaged in manufacturing than any State in the world except Pennsylvania, no fewer than 464,000 people in New York City being employed in factories. Some of these factories are necessarily in the city, others not. For instance, we have among those which must remain (1) the big factory plant and workmen caught in the tide of population. A factory which would like to move out and which could be conducted as well or better out of town, but which cannot afford to abandon its plant and build anew.

(2) The factory the nature of whose production requires that it should be situated as near its market as possible, as, for instance, the great newspapers and their subsidiary and allied industries.

(3) That class of factory producing what is consumed in the city itself, transportation and terminal facilities being so inadequate that it is almost a necessity that they should be manufactured in Greater New York, ready for consumption. It may be that when these matters are sufficiently improved a proportion of this class can operate from outside the city limits. Smaller towns with adequate railroad or steamship service facilities are not so dependent.

Among the manufacturers causing unnecessary crowding is the clothing industry. By the last United States census there are 171,000 people in New York City employed in the clothing trade, not including tailors and dressmakers who do not employ more than one helper.

Such factories would go out into the country if transportation were better. Even at present more and more are moving out.

In department stores we find one type of clothing factory, as each maintains a finishing and altering department, and as the demand is that clothing must be sent home immediately, it is necessary that this type of factory shall be in the center of things. Every one comes to the center of the city to shop, hence the factory people must come to the center to do their work. One remedy for over-crowding is to improve transportation: with what has been already accomplished we find more and more moving into the suburbs.

Let us now discuss conditions of over-crowding in the clothing trade, for instance.

1. Home work. That done in tenements. Every one has a prejudice against this, but it is really of two kinds. For instance, a distinction should be made between (1) work done by expert workers, who either by reason of age, infirmity, or ties such as those of married women, who, being unable to leave home, are employed at good pay. These workers produce in their own homes in the tenements under fair conditions.

2. Manufacture of wholesale clothing sent into the tenements to be finished. Certain manufacturers cannot afford to keep all their force in their employ during the whole year. Consequently, at the regular recurring rush season they require help of outsiders, which must be procured as cheaply as possible and is therefore apt to be under bad conditions.

Apart from this home work, done by individuals in their tenement homes, we have the sweatshop evil. The most crowded conditions exist below 14th Street. In that section there are many old buildings, condemned for use as tenements. At the rush season contractors hire a room or floor in some shocking building and put in a large force under wrong conditions. They get the place at so low a rental and their workers at so low a wage that the factories proper cannot compete. The law of New York requires a certain amount of space and ventilation for each worker, but,

though the law has been in effect two and one-half years, there has been no way of enforcing it. For one thing it is often next to impossible to find the proprietor or contractor. The result is a very bad condition of affairs. However, the Health Department gives permits to the factory inspector to go in and mark the output "unclean," where the conditions are unsanitary, until conditions can be improved. This has already been done between 500 and 600 times. It is hoped that by this means the contractors can be driven out. The remedy for this evil is to enforce as strictly as possible all sanitary laws.

Make good buildings a necessity. This will demand higher rental and will tend to drive out the sweatshop.

I have been asked whether, in my opinion, a law should be passed forbidding the building of factories on Manhattan Island. I do not think such a law should be proposed. In fact, you cannot by law forbid the building of factories, as it is next to impossible to draw the line between a factory built for a specific manufacturing purpose and the usual loft type of building in the city, which is equally adaptable for manufacturing or mercantile use.

A Projected Reformatory for Boys

The Chairman then introduced Miss Bowen, of Alabama, who made a plea for help in establishing a farm as a reformatory school for negro boys. There is a reformatory for white boys and girls, but no provision had, until recently, been made for negro boys. Although the State of Alabama has been aroused to good work on behalf of white children, something must also be done to save the negro boys who are not prepared to cope with the evils which they encounter in the fast-growing cities where so many of them make their homes.

A little band of five negro women, of which Miss Bowen is president and Mrs. Booker T. Washington vice-president, have already succeeded in acquiring a farm 25 miles east of Montgomery and at present have twenty-five negro boys in residence there. The plan is to purchase this farm outright, settle as many boys between the ages of seven and fourteen as can be accommodated and keep them until they are twenty-one years of age, giving them each a good trade as a preparation for going out into the world.

It is hoped eventually to secure State aid for this enterprise by persuading those in authority that it costs the State more to support a boy sent to prison than one trained at the reformatory farm; but in the meantime Miss Bowen and others are hoping to raise money for the immediate demands of the project. Miss Bowen is to join Booker T. Washington in Boston in November, where both are to address a mass-meeting to be held in the New Old South Church.

It was unanimously voted that Miss Bowen be asked to be present at the annual meeting of The Woman's Municipal League in November, and that, if possible, a place be made on the programme for a brief address by her on the subject of "A Farm Colony as a Reformatory for Negro Boys in Alabama."

Miss Bowen's address while in New York is 123 East 97th Street.

An Important Conference

The Charity Organization Society of New York is to hold a conference of charity and social workers from many sections of the United States in New York City on November 19, 20, and 21, 1907, to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Society. Seven meetings are to be held. The opening meeting on the evening of November

19th at Carnegie Hall will be addressed by Governor Hughes, Dr. Emil Muensterberg, President of the Public Charities of Berlin, and other prominent speakers. Conferences will be held on November 20th and 21st in the Assembly Hall of Charities Building, with morning, afternoon and evening sessions. A contrast between the New York of to-day and that of a quarter century ago will be presented. An attempt will be made to forecast the future, and the effect of such changes on present and future philanthropic work will be discussed.

One session will be devoted to the past, present and future of the Charity Organization movement, its increased opportunities and the relative importance which should be placed on various activities.

The education of the community is another topic involving the consideration of methods of increasing the general knowledge of sound principles and good methods in social work. The closing session will be devoted to Charity Organization extension, the starting of societies in new communities and the establishing of standards of work in existing societies. Visits will be made to tenements, playgrounds, the Provident Loan Society, the modern school building, a recreation pier, etc.

All who are interested in the welfare of the poor are invited to attend and participate in the discussions. It is expected that this series of meetings will have national significance in charity organization work.

These conference meetings are commended to the especial attention of the members of the League as the activities of such a local philanthropic body as the C. O. S. should be known to our members, since there must be many occasions when our organization can further the admirable work of this excellently administered association. Its twenty-fifth anniversary should be an occasion for rejoicing on the part of all those interested in betterment movements.

Projected Joint Committee

A conference meeting was held on October 16, 1907, between Miss Hutchinson, representing the Woman's Auxiliary of the Civil Service Reform Association, and Mrs. Longfellow, representing The Woman's Municipal League, at which it was decided to organize a Joint Committee with two objects in view: first, to prevent the duplication of work, and, secondly, to give each organization an opportunity to assist the other.

Meetings are to be held monthly. At the first meeting it was suggested that The Woman's Municipal League could introduce the questions of civil service reform to its members, through its BULLETIN and its public meetings. It was also suggested that the Woman's Auxiliary of the Civil Service Reform Association assist in the endeavor of The Woman's Municipal League to introduce talks on Civics at the Mothers' meetings of the public schools.

Reports of Committees

POLICE.

The Chairman of this Committee would report that she has had a very satisfactory talk with Police Commissioner Bingham. He says so many women wanted permits to visit station

houses that it was impossible to grant any. He feels himself perfectly well-informed as to conditions, and entirely able to control them if he had enough patrolmen. Your Chairman attended the Alderman's hearing upon the request of Commissioner for 500 more men. She advocated that the request be granted. Six hundred additional were allowed last year. In reality the Police Department needs, at the present time, 2,500 more men, but the Commissioner asked originally for only 2,000 more, and he is restricting his applications to that number. Anyone who will consider the conditions of New York City, where, in the congested districts, there is the population of a small town in one block, and in the outlying districts it is practically country, will realize that this city is a most difficult territory to police, and that we should have here a number of men in proportion to population. We have instead only one patrolman to every 547 of our population. Berlin has one to every 340 of population. Our policemen cover on an average six miles on day patrol and three miles at night. It is not, therefore, surprising that a policeman cannot always be found when wanted.

Your Chairman desires to talk to members of League about police matters, and respectfully asks that in the Central Committee you urge attendance at a meeting for this purpose when notices are received.

Respectfully,

ANNA M. JACKSON,

Chairman.

SUGGESTIONS.

The BULLETIN for October refers to the crowds of loafers seen on the Recreation Pier. This is the complaint that is made in regard to parks and playgrounds everywhere in the city. Will not the League agitate having some rule by which adults unaccompanied by children shall be kept out of places intended for children?

Again, will not the League interest itself to protest against the same school books being used by children in different families—that is, passed on from one set of children to another? It is not a cleanly habit at best, and now when so much effort is being made to protect the health of children it seems ridiculous to overlook this easy method of communicating contagious diseases. There used to be a plan by which a child on promotion retained its own books if they were used in the next grade. This has been changed. I think the books could be kept to one family by a little effort. Your Committee on Public Education will understand better than I what is the trouble and what ought to be the remedy.

Again, I think the League should protest against the privilege being given to celebrate Italian saint days by bombs. These are set off all day long, some days during the summer, and the noise in the evening is indescribable. I am told that the Fire Department, Commissioner Lantry, is responsible.

Respectfully,

ANNA M. JACKSON.

Reports of Branches

CHELSEA.

From the time Comptroller Grout promised the Chelsea Committee that the first park granted Manhattan

should be in Chelsea, it has been the ideal of Mr. Paddock, the Messrs. Lamb and other public-spirited citizens to make it the beginning of a civic center. When our neighborhood conference was formed to consider park equipment and development this ideal was always borne in mind, and a degree of fulfillment came this autumn when Hudson Guild recently laid the cornerstone of its handsome new building in Twenty-seventh Street, opposite Chelsea Park.

Upon the request of the Chelsea Committee, Commissioner Goodwin, of water, gas and electricity, has placed twelve electric arc lights in Twentieth and Twenty-first Streets, Ninth and Tenth Avenues, surrounding the grounds and in the immediate neighborhood of the Theological Seminary. These blocks had become the rendezvous of disorderly couples, partaking as the locality did of the nature of park or vacant space. These lights are well placed, and, I am told, the Seminary walls are at last moral without as well as within.

Miss Reynolds, who was greatly annoyed by the excessive use of flat-wheel trolley cars on Eighth and Ninth Avenues, has been effective in her effort to improve matters. She has been promised the co-operation of the Citizens' Union and of the Board of Health, and Alderman Dowling presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, It is charged that many of the cars of the New York City Railway Company, and particularly those operated on the said company's Ninth Avenue line, are equipped with flat wheels; and

WHEREAS, The use of flat wheels on railroad cars cause noises that are annoying to householders along thoroughfares on which they are operated and make it uncomfortable for passengers who ride in cars so equipped and affecting the health of the community; and

WHEREAS, Constant complaints, against the use of said flat wheels have failed to bring about an abatement of the nuisance; therefore

Resolved, That the subject herein set forth be respectfully referred for investigation to the Public Utilities Commission, with jurisdiction embracing Greater New York, when appointed.

This was referred by the Aldermanic Board to the Committee on Railroads. A ride on the Ninth Avenue road has all the disagreeable features of an ocean voyage without any of the advantages of the latter, and our intention is to keep the matter stirred up until some improvement is effected.

Respectfully,

HARRIET BACKUS,
Chairman.

MORRISANIA.

This Branch of the League has been active during the summer months, to a large extent in Woodstock. In this locality the Chairman of the division has taken particular interest in the erection and maintenance of fountains. She had hoped to be able to report at this meeting three new fountains as in operation in the Bronx, but, instead, Mrs. Fisk can relate a long and trying experience with a happy outcome for one fountain only. The first structure considered (which had been out

of commission for eight years) was situated at the side of a church, and it appeared to Mrs. Fisk to be an easy matter to take up, especially as the Department of Sewers promised to do the necessary plumbing. When first visited by Mrs. Fisk the clergyman in charge took an interest in the matter, and expressed his willingness to grant the necessary permission for the city to undertake the improvement. The work not being done with the celerity Mrs. Fisk had hoped for, she revisited the clergyman and found that he had refused to allow the Sewer Department to take up the matter and also learned that he had entirely changed his mind in regard to the advantages of a fountain in his district. Nothing could be done without the clergyman's permission by the Department, and the matter was necessarily dropped. Thus was the first fountain lost.

The second one was to have been erected at 149th Street, and a resolution was adopted by the Board of Aldermen granting the necessary permission, but not including the necessary appropriation. We as a committee cannot supply the funds, but, as the next best thing, have secured a promise from the Department of Sewers that a horse-trough may be placed in this locality. Mrs. Fisk found, during her campaign for the fountains, that the Mott Iron Works had sixty horse-troughs in their yards ordered by the City, but for which no appropriation had been made. When the Mott Iron Works' bill is paid we expect to have one of these troughs at 149th Street, and Mrs. Fisk hopes that she will be able to induce the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to pay for the horse-troughs, so that the entire number can be set up.

The building of the third fountain is now assured, although it passed through many vicissitudes. The arrangements for its erection were apparently completed last spring. Mr. Lamb had kindly furnished a design and the Sewer Department had promised its co-operation. Everything was in readiness, and the plans were handed to the Art Commission for final approval. They were curtly rejected, with the information that no fountains would be accepted for the City except those designed in bronze.

This was a terrible blow, considering $200 was all the Committee had been able to collect. However, Mrs. Fisk was not daunted, and through friends was able to obtain designs and estimates for a bronze fountain not greatly exceeding our appropriation. One of these designs has been presented to the Municipal Art Committee, and accepted, much to our joy and satisfaction.

Mrs. Fisk has also been instrumental in establishing a circulating library in her neighborhood.

She made so effective a protest against conditions on Riker's Island that the Mayor appointed a Commission to look into the matter. A few days later she heard from an engineer that forty cords of wood had been rushed to Riker's Island, with the result that the worst of the debris had been consumed before the Commission arrived.

Longwood and Prospect Avenues were resodded this spring and Mrs. Fisk undertook to see that the contract was properly executed. She found that it was not, and brought

this fact to the attention of the Commissioner of Highways, who, after verifying her statements, placed upon the contractor the proper penalty. The contract had called for the sprinkling of the new sod for ten days after it had been laid. Mrs. Fisk was able to bring witnesses before the Commissioner, proving through them that the sod had not been sprinkled once during the entire period.

She is organizing a mass-meeting at which several commissioners will speak, and which, it is hoped, will serve as a conference-occasion for Bronx citizens and officials—giving each an opportunity to be heard by the other.

Mrs. Fisk wishes to introduce lectures on Civics at the Mothers' Meetings in the public schools, and is working toward this end with her usual vigor.

The Kingsbridge work is being done along sanitary lines. A disease-breeding cesspool has been closed, at the Division's request, and a leaking hydrant attended to.

Another hydrant in Spuyten Duyvil has also been repaired, and plans are being made in the last-named locality for the removal of snow, and for other necessary winter improvements.

Respectfully submitted,

JULIA L. D. LONGFELLOW,
Chairman.

Back Copies of the Bulletin

It is requested that anyone who can spare copies of the May, 1907, BULLETIN will kindly send same to office of League, 19 East Twenty-sixth Street, as the edition is exhausted and there are constant calls for it.

The accompanying verse has been sent to the BULLETIN, with a request to publish, a request that is gladly granted. Long ago Herbert Spencer had some caustic things to say of the propensity of all but a small minority of persons to maintain a chronic attitude of Why don't they?

They

From Life.

Why don't they keep the streets a little cleaner?
You ask with deep annoyance not undue.
Why don't they keep the parks a little greener?
(Did you ever stop to think that *they* means you?)

How long will they permit this graft and stealing?
Why don't they see the courts are clean and true?
Why will they wink at crooked public dealing?
(Did you ever stop to think that *they* means you?)

Why don't they stop this miserable child labor?
And wake the S. P. C. A. up a few?
(While thus you gently knock your unknown neighbor,
Did you ever stop to think that *they* means you?)

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WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BULLETIN

VOL. VI. DECEMBER, 1907 No. 3

The regular monthly meeting of members of The Woman's Municipal League will take place at the Headquarters, 19 East 26th Street, on Thursday, December 19, 1907, at 11 a.m.

The speaker of the day will be MR. ELLIOT H. GOODWIN, Secretary New York Civil Service Reform Association. The subject: Civil Service Reform and Municipal Reform.

JOSEPHINE REDDING, *Secretary.*

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All Communications should be sent to **THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE,** *19 East 26th Street*

Extract from the President's Annual Report

It has seemed to the President that her annual address this year better call your attention to the weak spot in the League, and that is, in our lack of education acquired through lectures or class work. The reason for this weakness is our principle not to duplicate good work done by another civic organization, The League for Political Education, which covers the ground; but, after observing their membership and our membership for several years, I am led to believe that, in our scrupulous dread of duplicating their work, we are less efficient than we should be.

Those of our members who work, do so almost entirely through their District centers. Would it not be possible for us to make our District centers places where The League for Political Education presented the academic side of civic work? Could not The League for Political Education urge those who have attended its classes at the Berkeley Lyceum to work for our city, now that they presumably know how? Would not the alumnæ, so to speak, of The League for Political Education become members of The Woman's Municipal League and give the city the practical benefit of their familiarity with all which The League for Political Education teaches?

It is not easy to foresee an identification of government nor of annual dues. Each Society is incorporated, each has its constitution, but surely Mrs. Lowell was right when she said that The Woman's Municipal League needed an educational department. She was not one who believes that time should be wasted going to school, but she would agree that we must learn something of the modern science of modern civics, and that having learned this, the women of New York should join The Woman's Municipal League. Doubtless The League for Political Education has sent forth workers into the field. It is fair to assume that many parishes are benefited by a wider point of view on the part of women who work for them because those women have studied at The League for Political Education. We are not the only executive civic society, the Women's Health Protective League, Public Education Association, Association of Neighborhood Workers, Consumers' League and Manhattan Trade School are among the number, but I am sure any or all of these organizations would be glad of more such workers, and would join with me in urging that anyone who follows the course of The League for Political Education should not rest until she has found the committee with which she will work.

"But where do the *majority* of those who attend The League for Political Education lectures serve their city?" I quote from a note sent to me by a woman who is so working professionally.

"It seems a serious harm, done by a society like The League for Political Education that its members really feel their indolent, half-listening attendance at a heterogeneous course of lectures is performing a serious duty. I found lately, when trying to fill a responsible position, one applicant referring to her attendance at those courses as the part of her record that would prove her competency for the place. Another girl spoke of attending the lectures as her way of 'being of use' this winter."

These remarks of mine are not intended as a criticism upon The League for Political Education but upon the torpid civic conscience of the average listener. Surely the individuals who make up the admirable faculty of The League for Political Education are fine examples of what their listeners should be. We need women on all of our committees. Committees, we be-

lieve, are of vital importance and commanding interest.

Who, living in the city, would not have been glad to be among those who discovered the horrible fraud practiced upon small depositors by men who placed placards in the windows in foreign tongues, announcing their authority to receive and transmit moneys, when they were common thieves? What householder does not wish us to abate the menace to health caused by building materials being delivered long before use in our streets, which are so many centers for germ distribution? This we can do if an increasing membership will report such obstruction to our District Chairmen. Last summer a member living where we have only seven, realizing that a recently laid plot of sodding was in danger of drying up for lack of sprinkling, complained that the contractor was not fulfilling his contract. He, of course, said that he was. This member brought witnesses and faced him before the municipal authorities, who took his contract away from him. If the hundreds of women who have listened at The League for Political Education would lend their personal support to our investigations, would it be long before the city contractor realized that the taxpayer had learned the terms of his contract and expected him to keep them?

I repeat that our work would not conflict. I wish no member of The League for Political Education to withdraw her three dollars a year, which is so much needed by the society which undertakes to educate women to be effective citizens, but I am addressing our own membership and I beg you to speak for us among your friends who, having attended civic lectures, would come to us already qualified to make us more nearly what Mrs. Lowell expected us to be, *The Woman's Municipal League,* not of any one group or locality, not of any one endeavor, but in season and out of season, of Greater New York.

Annual Reports

Secretary's Report

The early months of the club year were largely devoted to a readjustment of our relations with tenants and those with an affiliated body of women and to a reform of the office system, which matters were brought to satisfactory conclusions. In this connection I wish to express my appreciation of the intelligent and loyal co-operation of the Assistant Secretary, Miss F. H. Fuller, in all that portion of the work which devolved upon me in connection with the readjustment matters named, and I wish also, in the name of the League, to thank the Murray Hill Branch for its generous donation of a handsome filing case, which adds immeasureably to the efficiency of the office as a reference bureau.

The most important work undertaken by your Secretary has been in connection with the pure-milk crusade. The Woman's Municipal League was the first body of women, and for many months it was the only one, which espoused the cause of pure milk, its aggressive work having won most appreciative acknowledgment from Mr. Nathan Straus and the *Evening Mail,* the two pioneer agencies for pure milk. At the time the League began its crusade (October, 1906, by an article in THE BULLETIN, the official organ of the League), the general public and the Board of Health were apathetic on the subject, the employment of a very few inspectors constituting all the attempt at safeguarding the milk supply that the authorities provided. On the first Sunday in December, 1906, the head of the Health Department, in a published interview, was quoted as maintaining that no drop of impure milk could get into New York City. This statement was made in the face of the fact that more than 1,500,000 quarts came into the city daily, these being the output of more than 30,000 dairies scattered over seven States,

and that there are more than 20,000 places in the city from which milk is dispensed. The vitally necessary work for the League to do was to aid in arousing the public to a realization of the importance of the matter. The League carried on a campaign of education and among other efforts it was represented by its Secretary in November, 1906, at Chicago, at the American Humane Association convention, who made an address, "Pure Milk Supply for Cities," which was copied by Chicago and New York papers.

Another means of arousing public interest in the question was a conference on the perils of the milk supply, held at the regular public meeting for January, 1907. The speakers invited for the occasion were William Wirt Mills, city editor of *Evening Mail*, and a strong advocate of Pasteurization; Dr. Green, of the Straus Laboratory; a representative of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, which organization advocates placing sole reliance on inspection.

In carrying out its pure-milk propaganda the League advocated permanent Pasteurized milk booths in the parks, and your Secretary visited the Park Commissioner, Hermann, and Controller Metz and wrote appeals to aldermen and other officials urging this measure.

The year's agitation on the part of the League and the *Evening Mail* resulted in a publicity through the general press such as the subject had never before received, and a consequent enlightenment of the general public resulted. More inspectors have been appointed and one of the largest milk distributing companies which in the year has completed and put into operation a Pasteurizing plant estaimated to have cost $200,000 on the upper West Side, finds such a large portion of the public is now desirous of obtaining pure milk, that the company is about to build a second Pasteurizing plant three or four miles north of the first one. The battle for a pure-milk supply in Greater New York is not yet won, but the League is to be congratulated on the valuable aid it has rendered in the progress so far made.

A special effort has been made by the Secretary to secure speakers of eminence who were especially qualified to treat on the subjects selected for the monthly public meetings. Besides the conference on the milk supply, already mentioned, the speakers and subjects at the monthly meetings have included: The Criminal Courts, by ex-Judge Ommen; Prevention of Tuberculosis, by Dr. J. B. Huber; An Account of the People's Institute, by Charles Sprague Smith, and Factories in New York City in Relation to Overcrowding, by the Hon. P. Tecumseh Sherman. A conference was also held at the May public meeting on the subject of street cleaning, at which those making addresses were Robert L. Hoguet, Dr. James C. Bayles, Commissioner of Parks for the Bronx Joseph Berry.

The League was represented by its President and its Secretary at the recent campaign on the Citizens' Committee of Fifty, the Secretary attending all the committee meetings, and at the suggestion of the committee the League delegate undertook to aid the cause of good government in the Second District by working for the Municipal Court candidacy of Louis Lande. The sum of $159 was received from League members through Mrs. James Lawton, who kindly acted as Treasurer. The President of the League contributed the necessary postage ($20) for the distribution of campaign literature and the Spuyten Duyvil Division paid the printing bill. There were ten volunteer workers, who kindly responded to an appeal from the central office to do campaign work.

JOSEPHINE REDDING,
Secretary.

November, 1907.

Treasurer's Report

THE WOMAN'S MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

In account with CATHARINE S. LEVERICH, Treasurer

November 1st, 1906, to November 1st, 1907

Balance	$ 2.49
Dues, Unorganized Districts	47 00
Per cent. District Dues	97.42
Donations from Districts	377.50
Sustaining Members	393.00
Donations	1,129.00
Miscellaneous	27.85
Miss Rhodes	2.95
Repaid from House Account	55.00
	$2,132 21

Rent, May 1 to Nov. 1, 1906	$ 300.00
Rent, Nov. 1, 1906, to May 1, 1907	600.00
Salary, Assistant Secretary	900.00
Office Expenses	150.00
Telephone	117.05
Miscellaneous	55.00
Balance	10.16
	$2,132.21

CATHARINE S. LEVERICH,
Treasurer.

Does not include the House Account.

Donations

Donors—$100 annually.

Associate Members—$50 annually.

Sustaining Members—$25 or less annually.

Miss Helen C. Butler	$25.00
In Memory of F. J. de Peyster	25.00
Mrs. Paul Leicester Ford	25.00
Mrs. William C. Osborn	25.00
Mrs. George W. Perkins	25.00
Mrs. I. N. Phelps Stokes	25.00
Mrs. Gordon Wendell	25.00
Mrs. Walter Damrosch	10.00
Mrs. John Hone	10.00
Mrs. Theodore F. Jackson	10.00
Mrs. Kerr	10.00
Mrs. Brewster MacDonald	10.00
Mrs. Moses Taylor Pyne	10.00
*Miss Olivia Phelps Stokes	50.00
*Miss Caroline Phelps Stokes	50.00
Miss A. E. Van Santvoord	10.00
Mrs. V. Everit Macy	9.00
Mrs. Frederick Nathan	9.00
Miss Sadie American	5.00
Mrs. Bauyer Clarkson	5.00
Miss Helen Van C. de Peyster	5.00
Miss Laura Jay Edwards	5.00
Mrs. Woodbury Langdon	5.00
Mrs. A. P. Morewood	5.00
	$393.00

Donations.

Miss Grace H. Dodge	$450.00
Miss Helen Van C. de Peyster	150.00
Mrs. James McLean	100.00
Mrs. James A. Scrymser	100.00
Miss Catharine S. Leverich	40.00
Mrs. Richard Aldrich	35.00
Mrs. W. Bayard Cutting	25.00
Mrs. M. Hartley	25.00
Mrs. Frederic B. Pratt	25.00
Mrs. Kimball	24.00
Miss A. M. Dike	10.00
Mrs. John Greenough	10.00
Miss W. A. Hall	$10.00
Through Mrs. Frederick W. Longfellow	10.00
Mrs. E. E. Olcott	10.00
Miss Georgina Schuyler	10.00
Mrs. Annie Longfellow Strong	10.00
Mrs. E. H. Van Ingen	10.00
Mrs. Julius F. Van Riper	10.00
The Misses Peters	8.00
Mrs. Francis Barlow	5.00
Miss Anna B. Evans	5.00
Miss Alice H. Greenleaf	5.00
Mrs. W. H. Hagen	5.00
Miss Cora L. Hartshorn	5.00
Mrs. Charles A. Peabody	5.00
Mrs. Thomas E. Satterthwaite	5.00
Miss C. Helen Simpson	5.00
Mrs. Charles H. Stout	5.00
Mrs. A. R. Ledux	4.00
Mrs. Douglas Merritt	4.00
Mrs. R. E. Ely	2.00
Cash	1.00
Mrs. M. H. Elwell	1.00
	$1,129.00

Per Cent. From Districts.

Chelsea	$29.00
Greenwich	10.00
Heights	10.30
Inwood	1.80
Kip's Bay	2.70
Murray Hill	26.32
Riverside	13.30
Washington Heights	4.00
	$97.42

Donations from Districts.

Chelsea	$80.00
Greenwich	59.50
Heights	25.00
Murray Hill	200.00
Riverside	13.00
	$377.50

Does not include donations or loans for the house.

*For 5 years in advance.

Amendment to the Constitution

The following amendment to the Constitution was unanimously adopted at the annual meeting of The Woman's Municipal League, held on November 14th:

Article IV, paragraph 1, line 3, which formerly read "paying annually dues of one dollar," was changed to read "paying annually dues of one dollar or more."

Committees

LEGISLATIVE

The Legislative Committee has not assembled since the meeting in June, reported in July—August number of the BULLETIN.

In July the Police Matrons' bill, Dobbs, Assembly 1585, was still in the hands of the Governor, having been re-passed by the Legislature over the Mayor's veto. The chairman of this committee, as well as the City Club, the Civil Service Reform Association of Women's Prison Association, sent a protest to the Governor against this bill to which he promised careful attention and which he did not sign.

The bill for a State Farm for Women Misdemeanants introduced by the Women's Prison Association, and so well endorsed by the Board of Police Magistrates of Manhattan and Brooklyn, the State Charities Aid Association, The Woman's Municipal League and other civic societies, again failed to be reported from the Assembly Committee. This is one of the measures most earnestly to be desired and should be supported by this League, as it is an admirable reformatory method of dealing with a most unfortunate class of women.

It may be interesting to note that in the long legislative session of 1907, 3,185 bills were introduced. Of these 30 were labor law amendments, 15 related to tenement house laws, 196 were amendments to the New York City Charter, and 338 were special local or general bills particularly affecting New York City. Of the 196 bills, 22 became law, and of the 338 affecting New York City without amending its charter, 41 became law.

The Public Service Commission Law was the most important legislation of the session and all who read the daily papers are cognizant of the work of the fine commission appointed by the Governor, which has power to deal with many matters introduced in the last Legislature, but requiring more careful investigation before being submitted at Albany.

The Municipal Court Reorganization Law has added three judges in Manhattan, four in Brooklyn, and one in Queens, and should be productive of a more speedy dispensation of justice in what may be called properly "the poor man's court."

The Night Court, recently established, is also a measure calculated to provide justice for a class that has long suffered from extortion.

The Charter Revision Committee is preparing suggestions to forward early in December to Governor Hughes for his consideration. The desirability of placing women on the Board of Education by a mandatory provision is being considered by some of the foremost men and women of the city.

It is also suggested that members write to Mayor McClellan asking him to re-appoint those women on the local school boards whose terms of office expire this year.

MARY H. LOINES,
Acting Chairman.

Ice-Water Fountain

The Fountain Committee presents the following report for the season of 1907, as usual a chequered one, but I believe containing more successes than failures in the management of our increasing number of free drinking fountains. During the temper-

ance administration of President Hayes, Mr. Evarts was asked how a state dinner at the White House went off. "Excellently," was the reply, "the water flowed like champagne." We wish we could say that the water from our fountains flowed always as cold as champagne, but it does not, for sometimes the children waste it and it does not have a chance to stay long enough in the coil of pipes to get thoroughly cold, and for that reason most of our banner fountains are located in sites frequented by men, such as West Street on the water front, the Salvation Army Hotel at Chatham Square, and the Bowery Mission, and some others where the water is not played with. It is the opinion of some interested observers that the fountains would do just as much good if allowed to run without ice, but the testimony of the majority of those who have the fountains in charge is to the contrary, and the very fact that almost all report regular and frequent visits of women with pitchers and pails to carry the water to their homes proves that it must be cooler than that drawn in the tenements. The head worker at the Sea and Land Mission on Henry Street told me that this was the daily custom of the occupants of a little laundry opposite, as well as the habit of many others of their neighbors. Another plea is that the colder water is more apt to counteract the constant temptation of the ice-cold beer at the corner saloon. It must be remembered, too, that we constantly endeavor to have the fountains run for nearly seven months of the year when there is no danger of the pipes freezing, and that only during the hottest weather, three months at the most, is the water iced.

We are always working at the problem of getting colder water, and preventing the annoyances which come from the stopping of the waste pipes and consequent dirty sidewalks and bowls. The children throw all kinds of refuse into the bowls, and although this waste pipe can be emptied daily with slight exertion, yet it is impossible to make all the janitors take this slight trouble. We feel that our plumber this season has devised an improvement which will greatly minimize this serious evil. On one of our new fountains at the Salvation Army Hotel, Chatham Square, instead of having the outlet pipe in the bottom of the bowl, as formerly, it is placed on the back of the tablet about an inch from the bottom, then covered with a small metal hood which comes within half an inch of the bottom, thus protecting the outlet from any debris. A little water perforce remains in the bottom of the bowl, but is siphoned out when the bowl is filled with water, and the debris can easily be removed from the bowl itself. The janitor told me that he had not had to empty the waste pipe all summer, and as this fountain is in a crowded locality, it was a good test of the efficiency of the new device. This fountain has a memorial brass plate made by J. & R. Lamb, and we ordered the same plumbing device for the other two fountains erected this year, the plates, for economy's sake, being made of iron by the J. L. Mott Company. But there were mistakes in the casting of these iron plates, which will have to be remedied before another season to insure the same success, and if we have money enough in the treasury, we hope to effect this improvement in all of the old design.

Three new fountains have been erected this season, two of them memorials. One, the gift of Miss Charlotte Lane, is located near the Salvation Army Hotel, Chatham Square, where it is visited by a procession of Bowery frequenters night and day. It is adorned with a beautiful brass tablet costing $200 and bearing an inscription in memory of Miss Lane's brother. With their usual enterprise, the Salvation Army take pride in keeping the fountains in spotless order, and cannot say enough in praise of its usefulness. A second fountain has been placed near the

Florence Crittenden Mission, 21 Bleecker Street, and several letters received during the summer assured me that it was a blessing in the neighborhood. I found on my return to town, however, that during the Superintendent's absence the fountain had not been kept in a cleanly condition. This fault will be remedied next season. The third fountain, a memorial one, given by Mr. Glen Wright, was placed near the Salvation Army Day Nursery Building at 94 Cherry Street, but was completed too late in the season for any report. It is, however, most fortunately located in one of the neediest parts of our city.

The Salvation Army furnishes ice for both of its fountains, and we hear would be glad to maintain another fountain at one of its hotels at 81 Bowery. As a fountain on every corner of the crowded part of the Bowery would not be too many, we hope someone will present one to the League for erection there next season. We learned with regret that the fountain at 55 Bowery will have to be removed, owing to the forced sale of the building for tunnel purposes, but the Mission has about decided upon a new home at 195 Bowery and want the fountain replaced there, and speak enthusiastically of its two years of beneficent use.

Again through the generosity of Mrs. Dodge and Miss Grace Dodge, who sent us $200 to supply ice for their fountains, we were able to furnish a supply for one other fountain which formerly procured ice through the Herald Ice Fund, and is now unable to do so.

In March we had a successful song recital at the residence of the Misses Lane which added $238. to our treasury fund. I wish I could take time to give reports of all our eighteen fountains, chequered, as I said in the beginning, with some failures, but for the most part I believe worth the effort of The Woman's Municipal League in maintaining this philanthropic branch of its work.

When your Committee undertook the mission it was thought that their task consisted in raising the necessary funds, finding suitable sites and attending to the yearly provision of ice. Each season, however, demonstrates the need of stricter oversight of all the fountains during the season of operation, for constantly we meet with negligent janitors, indifferent superintendents, mischievous children, and worst of all, in a few tough places, bands of young men of the roughest type going about seeking what they can destroy. On the brighter side, however, we have the hearty co-operation of our friends residing at the College Settlement, the Salvation Army buildings and the larger number of the missions and settlements. I shall mention here that the large fountain which the League erected in conjunction with Dr. Judson, and which is maintained by him, has, he informed me, been moved from its old site on the Oliver Street Mission to Sullivan Street.

HARRIET A. DILLINGHAM,
Chairman.

Treasurer's Report

Receipts.

Balance from 1906	$229.28
Entertainment benefit	238.00
For fountain, Miss Lane	350.00
For fountain, Mr. Wright	150.00
For ice	398.60
Miscellaneous contributions	29.34
Bank interest	8.68
	$1,403.90

Expenses.

1000 circulars	$ 20.00	
Concert expenses	33.00	
Three new fountains	655.90	
Ice	374.68	
Repairs, opening and closing	94.87	
Miscellaneous expenses	47.45	
		$1,225.90
Balance on hand to date		$178.00

Washington Heights

Treasurer's Report

Receipts.

Dues from members — March, 1906, to June, 1907	$54.00

Expenditures.

Postage from March, 1906, to June, 1907	$ 13.55	
Stationery from March, 1906, to June, 1907	7.45	
General Fund, November 13, 1906	10.00	
Instalment Fund, November, December, January and February	4.00	
Annual percentage	3.00	
		38.00
Balance on hand		$16.00

Respectfully submitted,
MAY P. WATKINS,
Treasurer.

HOUSE

The Chairman of the House Committee has the honor to report that leases have now been signed with Woman's University Club—the second floor tenements—the Shut-In-Society and the Gift Shop Tea Room.

We have two engagements for the Assembly Room—the Cornell Alumni, and the Chicago Woman's Club. The Chairman wishes to say that renting is a great factor toward the running expenses of the House, and trusts the members of the League will bear this in mind and help.

Miss Ida Tarbell gave the League a lecture on "Intellectual Integrity." In submitting the report of the Treasurer of the House Committee, the Chairman wishes publicly to express her appreciation of the splendid work done by Mrs. Cohen. Thanks to her efforts all old debts have been paid off since last April, at which time the House Committee was given full charge of the running expenses of the House. In April the Committee was confronted with bills aggregating $573.42, and had only $29.36 in its treasury and no money set aside to pay these bills.

The Chairman wishes to state that all old debts are paid and that the House Committee has satisfied, as far as possible, the reasonable demands of its tenants. New bills, coal, wood, installing new gas pipes and incidental household expenses have been incurred, amounting to $264, which the Committee hope to pay during the winter from rent of Assembly Room.

It is earnestly desired that any moneys due the House Committee should be turned over as soon as possible, that the Treasurer, Mrs. Cohen, may pay the rent promptly.

Treasurer desires that her report be audited before it is filed.

Respectfully submitted,
E. M. C. A. LAWTON,
Chairman House Committee.

Charity Organization Appeal to Christmas Shoppers

Will you join in a movement on a national scale to modify the hardships incident to holiday shopping? Observation might show many of us that Christmas is a time of hardship for those who have to do with supplying the needs of Christmas shoppers. Authentic records from the lives of clerks, delivery boys and

drivers of wagons reveal that, while we are keeping the Christmas festival, while we are feeding the lame and halt, the blind and friendless, we are thoughtlessly reducing to illness and exhaustion the young and strong and faithful who serve us, seen and unseen.

Every year the celebration of Christmas grows more elaborate. More presents are bought; the crowds are greater; the decorations are more splendid. The problems of the merchants are correspondingly more complex; the supply has to be increased; the pressure at every point intensifies. On the one hand, public opinion disapproves long hours and late work, particularly for young women, girls and children. On the other, merely through thoughtlessness, many shoppers defer their purchases until the last possible moment at the cost of unnecessary strain upon salespeople and delivery forces.

By joint effort of editors and merchants, the idea can be brought home to millions of customers that they can benefit themselves and every one concerned if they will do their Christmas shopping early in the season and early in the day. This will lengthen the Christmas shopping period and reduce the disadvantages which, in other seasons, have attended the Christmas crowds.

Will you speak of this matter to your friends, and have this letter read at your clubs and any other gatherings where it may do good? The appeal is signed among others by Jacob A. Riis, Mark Twain, Richard Watson Gilder, editor *The Century;* Leigh Reilly, editor *The Chicago Evening Post;* Lyman, Abbott, editor *The Outlook;* Adolph S. Ochs, publisher *New York Times;* Nathan Straus, of R. H. Macy & Company, New York; Florence Kelley, Secretary National Consumers' League.

Letter from the candidate the League supported for the Municipal Court Magistracy in the Second District:

November 12, 1907.

Mrs. Josephine Redding,
Secretary:

Dear Mrs. Redding: I am taking advantage of the first opportunity after election to thank you and the League for your kind assistance and encouragement, morally and financially, to further my candidacy for Justice of the Municipal Court, Second District.

Considering that we were handicapped in everything that a campaign requires, and that this was the first independent nomination in the history of the District, I think we did pretty well. I earnestly hope that the labors of the Committee of Fifty and the People's Court Committee will influence the regular parties to nominate better candidates in the future and when improper nominations are made abler that more popular men encouraged by our work will be ready to take up the fight on behalf of the independent voters of the District.

The credit for the birth of this independent political spirit is due to you and to all those who so kindly and so generously assisted us in the campaign.

Very truly yours,
Louis Lande.

District Branches

MURRAY HILL

At the first meeting of the Executive Committee on November 14, 1906, the work for the winter was outlined and included suggestions of reform in the condition of our city's streets. An effort was made to bring about an improvement in the matter of street obstructions, caused by building materials. Mrs. Wendell wrote to seven cities and in reply was

informed of the likelihood of a general code by which the objectionable features of building materials upon the public thoroughfares could be controlled. The Murray Hill Branch also helped to clean up the streets by securing more receptacles in the parks for waste paper so freely distributed by our careless citizens.

At one of the winter meetings the unsanitary condition of the quarters for mounted police was discussed. As the Commissioner objected to an inspection of the same on the ground that there was only one room in which the men dressed, it would seem that reform in that direction rested with the men themselves or with the Commissioner.

The Murray Hill Branch has been very fortunate in its financial affairs, and has been able to furnish money for the carrying on of reform schemes.

FRANCES A. E. WENDELL,
Chairman.

CHELSEA

This Branch has sixty-six members enrolled, and during the past year has held eight general meetings with an average attendance of twenty-three. Besides the regular meetings we had a Neighborhood Tea, at which over one hundred guests were present and we hope it has aroused some of our residents whom heretofore we have been unable to interest in our work.

Two hundred and eight dollars and seven cents were given during the year. Half of our dues was given to the Central Office of The Woman's Municipal League, also $80 raised to help the League in its summer work, making a total donation of $109. The remainder was spent for work in our neighborhood.

Our standing committees are: Public Schools, Ice-Water Fountain, Tenement House, Neighborhood Park, Piers, Street Cleaning and Recruiting. Much individual work has been done. Printed matter has been distributed by the Tenement House and Street Cleaning committees and the results have been beneficial. Lights have been added to two blocks and the streets have been better cared for. All the buildings have been torn down on the block for our park.

The year opens with a great deal of work in prospect, but with united interest and effort we hope to have good results.

HELEN VAN BOKKELEN,
Corresponding Secretary.

THE HEIGHTS

Many of the conditions existing a year ago, which were more or less to be deplored, are still with us. "Eternal vigilance is the price we pay for liberty," as well as other things.

Our organization is in touch with most of the conditions needing improvement, and we are free to criticise as well as to commend. We recognize the fact that, in the building of subways, tunnels, bridges and laying out of new streets, the demolition of old buildings to make way for new ones, confusion in lines must exist. So we strive to let patience have her perfect work, and go on hoping to see some day, in the near future, our home city grow in lines of order, beauty and cleanliness. Having read of the many breathing places in London—300 beautiful squares, 106 council parks, 12 royal parks and 120 borough gardens—we realize what can be accomplished, and it has given us courage to go frequently before our Local Board, asking for the finishing-up of some parks where they have been long delayed, also suggesting that the location at the foot of Grace Court should be utilized for a park, as it is the last possible space left on the Heights for a breathing place. The Heights local improvement district embraces five branch libraries.

The Montague Street Branch has 180,575 volumes, with an average daily circulation of about 1,000 books.

Pacific Street Branch has a circulation of 600 daily. The special distinction of this Branch is the Blind Library, where the blind people assemble twice a week, afternoons and one evening, to listen to readings by the Chief Librarian.

The Schermerhorn Branch is open on holidays and Sundays, and has a circulation of 300 volumes daily.

The Carroll Park Branch has an ideal Reference and Reading Room. In the basement there is a Lecture Hall, with a seating capacity of 250, which may be rented by the public.

The City Park Branch is a veritable oasis in a desert, says the chairman of the committee, and is remarkable for the up-to-date inciting and directing stimuli for would-be readers always in evidence. The story hour for children is from eight to nine o'clock on Tuesday evenings.

Miss Hunt, of the Children's Department of the Brooklyn Public Library, gave a most instructive and interesting talk before the Heights Branch, informing us of the work and describing the methods.

The Tenement House Committee give faithful work. Have had leaflets printed in different languages, so the tenement dwellers may be informed about the laws; also report to the Deputy Commissioner conditions which require his immediate attention. Miss Sayles, Inspector of Tenements, gave a talk about the duties of Inspectors, and described her own work, as one of them.

Prof. Oleson, of the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, gave most generously of his time to us, as he told of food adulterations, with special reference to the Pure Food Bill, saying that impure food does not always mean harmful food, but that it is different from what it purports to be, etc.

The soft coal smoke nuisance has not been overlooked, and complaints have been sent to the powers that be. One morning was given to a talk on the subject of the disposal of the city's waste, when Miss Hoy, a young lawyer, urged the establishment of incineraries in various sections of the city as such a move has proved successful in cities in Europe.

The work of the Probation Officer reported to the Heights Branch monthly has been of great interest. The subject of juvenile delinquency and the prevention of the same is a question to be met wisely, recognizing the boy saved, is the citizen of the future saved. All honor should be given to such men as Judge Lindsley of Denver, Judge Mack of Chicago, and our own Judge Wilkin of Brooklyn, who have evinced almost paternal interest in their work for the redemption of such boys. The fight for carrying out the child-labor laws has interested all.

The Public Safety Committee's work is to visit the jail, the station houses, police precincts and comfort stations. The chairman has requested members of the League to advocate the bill to place the Kings County Jail under the Department of Correction, instead of leaving it in the hands of the sheriff.

The Committee on Schools, Parks and Playgrounds have been cheered by the knowledge that some changes have followed the demand for them. The Tillary Street Park, after long and quite unnecessary delay, has been surely promised. Some school buildings, not ready for the entrance of pupils at the opening hour, have been put in proper condition.

The chairman says that the fittings of our Brooklyn playgrounds compare most unfavorably with those in Manhattan.

We Americans have surely much to learn in the best and wisest way of administering laws.

"In Europe many cities are studied as a whole, and treated as unities from the regulative, the administrative, the educational, and the æsthetic side," and the sooner we accept that view, the sooner our great city, composed of many boroughs, will become

what we all desire to see it, not alone great, but fine, in all that the word means.

[Extracts from annual report of the Heights Branch. Read at annual meeting of the Branch.]

J. S. Dike,
Chairman.

KIP'S BAY

This Branch has held its first meeting and is prepared for work. Owing to illness in the family of its chairman, Mrs. J. Noble Hayes, there had been no previous meeting, and the November meeting was held without her. She had asked to be released from her office, but her resignation was not presented, as Kip's Bay Branch is unwilling to consider such a suggestion. Even if she can attend but a few meetings during the winter, the members feel sure that she will be of valuable assistance.

The by-laws were amended, making the annual dues $1.50, of which it was voted to pay $1 to the parent organization during 1908.

A large Committee on Membership was appointed, and it is hoped that all members of the League will cooperate with this committee to increase the membership of Kip's Bay Branch. This is a large district, and as there is no organization to the south, if the women who properly belong in it could be enlisted, Kip's Bay District would soon be one of the most populous and efficient Branches of the League.

Anna M. Jackson,
Vice-Chairman.

PROSPECT HEIGHTS

We are glad to be able to announce good results from our work of last year. There were the usual monthly meetings during the year and though we lost some members because of their moving out of town, we gained a like number and kept our "balance sheet" of membership the same.

Among our speakers at several meetings, were Miss Arthur and Miss Fried, of the Research Department of The Woman's Municipal League, who interested us in the subject of women immigrants, who are coming to Brooklyn at an average at present of 3,000 a year. We felt it a good work for our Branch to follow the woman immigrant from Ellis Island to the home of a relative or friend, to see the conditions which met her and by which she was soon submerged. When the facts are known to this Branch, it helps her out of miserable surroundings, removes from her mind the deceitful picturesqueness by agents and suggests places where she can follow the trade learned in the old country. Through this Branch these girls also receive other helpful suggestions for their moral and social betterment. To accomplish this work has required paid investigators who understand the language of Poles, Germans, Italians, Lithuanians, Slovaks, Ruthuanians, Scandinavians and Bohemians, as well as English. After voting to make this one of our interests, we gave a Bridge party, and the sum thus secured, augmented by donations, gave us the $750 needed for the work. The reports to us during the summer and autumn months have been so interesting that I wish all might know the results of this co-operative friendly visiting done in New York and Brooklyn.

Work for the good of our black spots in the four wards of our District, kept us busy all the year. Our interest meant that women were aroused and to the men that generally means public opinion. The object of our work was the Kings County Jail on Raymond Street. A committee of four was appointed. Through their visits to the jail they found to their surprise that the Matron of the Woman's Department was a highly commendable person, with an altruistic point of view toward the welfare and conditions of the inmates in her department. They learned much from her,

and this data, together with the evidence of their own eyes, confirmed them in the opinion that the condemnation of this jail by every Grand Jury for thirty years was well warranted. Letters were written to Senator Fuller, who had charge of the bill for taking this jail out of the hands of the sheriff and putting it into the Department of Corrections. All the other jails in New York and its boroughs have been for years in this Department, the Raymond Street, and that of Queen's County being the only ones outside its jurisdiction.

This Department of Corrections has more money than the sheriff ever dreamed of. The sheriff confessed this jail was a burden he would be glad to be rid of, and promised to work for the bill, which seemed to be having very difficult progress through the House. Our committee made splendid effort and wrote to and interviewed the assemblymen from our District and much to our joy the bill passed. No politician gave us the slightest hope that the bill would pass the Senate and, in fact, it was being held up for political reasons by the member who introduced it, but thanks to the good work done by our committee (more letters, more interviews) with Senators from the District, the bill passed, was signed by the Governor, and should take effect in January next. The Commissioner of the Department of Corrections appeared to favor the idea of its lying dormant, perhaps becoming a dead letter, but we shall be ready at the proper time to have it show signs of vitality, by insistent prodding. This same persistency will have to be directed toward the new sheriff, as the present incumbent, who goes out of office soon, did not keep his promise to make every effort to procure a separate van for women prisoners coming from the Coney Island courts to the jail. The abuses on these women prisoners, reported to our committee by the probation officer, are shocking instances of what has occurred more than once, and the conditions need our most strenuous efforts to abate.

Our desire to improve the condition of Fort Greene Park has been successful, although the visit to the Park Commissioner was rather discouraging, as he said such bad conditions as complained of were prevalent in all parks. This Fort Greene Park has had a bad reputation for years. The Commissioner was glad we were interested, would do what he could, but advised a larger number of electric lights. However, he did do what could be done, the bushes were cut low and hiding was difficult. A visit to the Police Commissioner found that official surprised at the conditions of the park, but he became very much interested when told of the danger to children, and he sent the captain of the precinct and three officers to receive the complaints of the committee. More police were put on duty and they remained there after midnight and the park has been really cleaned up. The Superintendent of the Brooklyn Hospital reported in July: "We have never had such an orderly park; it is quieter than ever before. We are not troubled by men addressing the nurses as they sit on the porches, and the degenerates have ceased to annoy the Mission near the hospital, as well as the Nurses' Home." These words of praise for the efforts of the police of the precinct were received with great pleasure by the captain, and he wrote in response to the good news that he "should continue to give the Fort Greene Park his special attention, to the end that the conditions now existing may ever remain."

Again, the report of August, September and October, "Never has the hospital known such a peaceful summertime in this park, when usually the nights from nine to three in the morning have been filled with hideous noises," was the report sent to the captain of the precinct and he was naturally much gratified.

We have members on the Tenement Committee of The Woman's Munici-

pal League, and their interest in that Committee's researches shows good effort and the right spirit. One member on the League's Legislative Committee has kept us well-informed of the bills in which the League has been interested.

Respectfully submitted,
CAROLINE A. L. PRATT,
Chairman.

GREENWICH

This District Branch has held eight meetings in all—two at the central office, one a tea—five at Richmond Hill House—one at the house of the chairman in May. The Richmond Hill House meetings have had an attendance varying from twelve to twenty-five women, not counting their children, and psychologically have been quite interesting. The women have been addressed on Child Labor, the nursery work in the public schools, the streets, municipal housing in England, in relation to our high rents in New York, and the police. The entire cost has been $3, an average of 60 cents a meeting for the tea and cake, and as a means of giving pleasure at small cost has at any rate been successful.

If persevered in, I think, some ideas may be brought to the politically impassive Italian women. The chairman suggested that as she did not feel able to give it the time to carry on alone, a committee be formed for next winter, of which Mrs. Arthur Hodges was appointed chairman. Such subjects as tenements, parks, the gas supply and lighting problems and the milk question have not yet been touched upon.

The District as a whole has done little work, mainly owing to the few members we have who can give us any time. But some of the members have done individual work. Miss Ward made an excellent study of the street condition in her neighborhood, and Mrs. Nichols and the chairman as representing this Branch on the League Committee on Police have examined two of the three station houses in this District—those in Mercer and Macdougall Streets—finding them in good condition, except as to some particulars.

I made a very full report in June and have now little to add, as our Branch has done no work during the summer, all our members being away. Our first business meeting will be next week. Individually, as a member of the Ice-Water Fountain Committee, I have tried to keep in touch with those of the fountains near us and feel more than ever convinced, through the summer's testimony, of the usefulness of the work. We lose in the death of Mrs. Godkin, wife of the late editor of the *Evening Post,* one of our earliest members. In June I complained to the proper official of the condition of the Jefferson Market town clock —on my return finding it still the same. I have written the Washington Square Association to ask if it cannot help to restore this popular institution to its old usefulness. The Superintendent of Public Buildings, a Mr. Walker, was being investigated very properly, I believe, in June, which accounts for my lack of success. But the work is too conspicuous for its neglect not to leave a bad impression on the public mind regarding the efficiency or inefficiency of our officials. I again urge the union of the Branches in street work and the responsibility of the Finance Committee for securing financial aid for the League.

The Greenwich Branch has made some changes in its dues, as allowed now by the Constitution, which will place it on a more satisfactory footing, and is planning for an active campaign in the general work of betterment, in both its own local matters and in the general League work. There will be occasional civic talks at Richmond Hill House, something on the lines of last winter and reports as usual on Police, Streets, Fountains, Buildings, etc.

KATHARINE S. DAY,
Chairman.

The Morrisania Local Improvement District Branch of the League is divided into sub-divisions, each of which has a chairman and executive body, and embraces within itself a distinct locality with interests and needs very different from those of the neighboring places. For example: Kingsbridge is a small individual town and has no interest in common with either Bedford Park or Woodstock. The Morrisania Branch of the League is therefore divided into a sub-division at Kingsbridge; another at Spuyten Duyvil; a third at University Heights, and a fourth at Woodstock; a fifth at Inwood-on-Hudson—this last belongs properly to the Washington Heights District, but is so close to Kingsbridge and so distant from Washington Heights proper that the Morrisania Branch has been permitted to adopt it.

Our five sub-divisions are held together and kept in harmonious action by a General Committee, to which each sub-division sends two representatives. During the past year this General Committee has held six regular meetings and one annual one. It has been the means of informing its sub-divisions of the work of the other Branches, and of the League as a whole, keeping them in touch with several large improvements in the Bronx. Foremost among these was the scheme to preserve the Bronx River by a park reservation along its banks; and the General Committee, as well as its divisions, did all in its power to encourage this excellent project. The Municipal Art Society asked for our co-operation in preserving another little water-course in the Bronx, namely, Tibbet's Brook; and in response to this request, numerous letters were written to the property owners in the vicinity requesting them to make objection to the filling in of the brook, and visits were paid the Park Department of the Bronx in the hope of interesting this Department in preserving the brook to the public in the same manner that the Bronx River will be preserved. As yet, however, no definite arrangements have been made by the city in regard to the brook.

We have made repeated protests against the use of St. James' Park as a ball-game center but, while we have not yet succeeded in preventing the devastation of this little park, we shall persist in our efforts to save it.

We have also urged all other Branches of the League to take up the subject of street cleaning. Each one of our sub-committees having done effectual work along this line, the commonplace thought occurred to us that the entire city would be clean if every woman insisted on a clean street in front of her dwelling. This is essentially a woman's work, and we urged on every Branch of the League concerted action in this direction.

Most of the practical work of this Branch of the League was done through its sub-divisions. I propose, therefore, to take them up one by one, and describe their plans and endeavors.

Kingsbridge.—On Thanksgiving Eve a fire broke out in Kingsbridge in an old stable at the foot of a steep hillside covered with dwelling houses, which were in imminent danger of being entirely destroyed, if the fire was not checked. Alarms were immediately sent in and little difficulty should have been experienced in controlling the fire, as a hydrant was situated on a line with the fire on the street immediately above. Three engine companies arrived; none of which, however, attached themselves to the hydrant mentioned, but took up positions at three hydrants at a greater distance from the fire. One company failed to make connections because the hydrant was so rusty that it could not be opened; another was not able to do so for twenty minutes after its arrival because the necessary wrench with which to open the hydrant had been forgotten, and it was out of commission until the occu-

pants of a passing automobile came to its assistance by producing a wrench; and the third made use of a hydrant the other side of the Harlem Creek—at too great a distance to be of any service except in increasing the flow of the creek itself. Such incompetency could not remain unnoticed, and it devolved upon a woman, secretary of our division at Kingsbridge, to take up the matter. Armed with all the facts she could gather, Mrs. Campbell visited Fire Chief Croker. It seemed incredible to him that none of the three companies should have found the proper hydrant. "Of course," he said, "all the companies have charts locating these hydrants, which he would gladly show," and he called for the chart of the Kingsbridge district. In reply, his engineer sent him word that no such chart could be found, and he learned on repeated inquiries that no chart for that district had ever been made. The Chief ordered that the chart be immediately drawn up, and sent one of his deputies to inquire further into the mismanagement. The captain of the district also ordered every hydrant to be flushed weekly, thus insuring his company against rusty screws and bolts.

The Deputy Highway Commissioner has always shown a disposition to consider the suggestions of our division in Kingsbridge, and made a personal call on our chairman, assuring her of his interest in our organization. He has had gravel instead of ashes strewn along the slippery roads in winter for the ladies' convenience; and has cleared many of the sidewalks of snow with snow plows, and has repaired several sidewalks—all at the request of our division.

Complaints about the dirty condition of the subway steps and station, and in regard to overflowing cesspools, were made to the Health Department. The latter received immediate attention. A leaking hydrant was also repaired. Our Chairman, Mrs. Todd, has been greatly interested in the establishment of a small park in this neighborhood, and has spent much time in endeavors to procure one. She visited Park Commissioner Berry in this regard, and likewise urged upon him the benefit of preserving Tibbets Brook to the city. We still hope that this can be accomplished. She also attended two hearings at City Hall in regard to the opening of two avenues through thirteen acres of meadow land, which the Interborough Railroad has purchased for storage purposes. These yards would be unsightly and otherwise objectionable; therefore the residents desire the city to open the avenues and prevent this offensive use of this tract.

Through a misunderstanding, Mrs. Campbell was instrumental in having a waiting-car placed at the end of the Yonkers Broadway trolley line. She had asked for a waiting car at the terminus of another line, and had been informed by the railroad company that the same had been placed; but on inspection found that her car had been located in an entirely different position from the one requested, where, however, it is extremely useful.

Fifteen dollars was contributed by this division to the Central Committee, and a reception was held late last spring, having an attendance of forty persons, and at which several new members were enrolled.

University Heights.—Our Division at University Heights has no annual report, little work having been undertaken there during the year.

Inwood.—The Inwood Division reports many excellent results of its year's work. During the winter of 1907 the garbage not having been removed for two weeks, a complaint was made to the Street Cleaning Commissioner, which resulted in an immediate remedy; the service at present being very satisfactory. A tenement house, the refuse from which was thrown into an adjoining lot, was

compelled to use refuse cans and several other vacant lots, disfigured with tin cans and refuse, were cleared by order of the Board of Health. The Street Cleaning Department has heretofore taken little interest in the care of upper Broadway, and Miss Hobbie, chairman of the Inwood Division, made a special point of this and determined that the avenue should be properly cleared of loose papers and debris. After having made repeated complaints to the deputy foreman, she was able to report that the matter had been attended to, and that the avenue is much more attractive than formerly. Loose papers are picked up by the sweepers, and the refuse is now being removed in carts instead of being dumped on the curb or into vacant lots.

The principal of the Public School was also interviewed and was requested to interest the scholars in the cleanliness of the neighborhood. New flagstones were laid, at this division's request; the water pressure of two houses and the gas pressure of another increased; and a toilet erected for the use of workmen during the opening of Seaman Avenue.

Miss Hobbie also secured a promise from the Department of Water, Gas and Electricity to erect lights on Emerson Street—a thoroughfare leading directly from the subway to Inwood—which has hitherto been unlighted. Efforts were made to prevent horses and cows from wandering at large.

The members appealed to the Police Commissioner to enforce the laws in regard to the closing of theaters on Sundays, and also urged the retention of the end of Manhattan Island for park purposes, besides making various efforts to increase the beauty of the vicinity in other ways.

Woodstock.—This Division has investigated with much interest the provisions made by law for the removal of snow from sidewalks in front of vacant property. This is a serious problem in the Bronx, and an appeal for redress was made to the Street Department, the Department of Highways, and the Police Department, and for information to the City Club, with little practical result, however, except that the Department of Highways, although disclaiming any responsibility, promised to attend to it as far as possible.

Mrs. Fisk, our Chairman in Woodstock, assumed the duty of seeing that the contract calling for the resodding of Prospect Avenue was properly carried out. She found that this contract included watering the sod for ten (10) days after it had been laid, and that this provision of the contract had not been fulfilled. She brought this information to the attention of the Department of Highways and the Commissioner, on verifying the facts, considered the contract void and refused to pay the contractor. She also had five drivers arrested for driving over the newly-laid sod, and five more street cleaners were detailed to this district at her request. She made the acquaintance of the White Wing who cleaned in front of her dwelling, and by a little judicious talking, caused him to appreciate the advantages of a clean street, and her pavement has been immaculate ever since.

A dangerous hole was properly braced and fenced, and building material which had encumbered the street for months was neatly piled on one side. A complaint directed to the Health Department in regard to the dirty condition of the Prospect Avenue station and steps resulted in an immediate remedy. Another more serious complaint was directed to the heads of two or three department stores in regard to the unpleasant scribblings on the walls of toilets in these shops. Promises were received that the walls would be redecorated.

Mrs. Fisk spent much of her time in the early summer in an effort to open empty lots to the public for park purposes. Three lots were promised her and the Park Department ex-

pected to assist, when unfortunately the permission to use these lots in this manner was withdrawn and the scheme had to be abandoned. Effective complaints were made, however, in regard to the stench emanating from Rikers Island, and the Mayor in his correspondence promised to investigate and remedy the matter as far as possible. His commission appointed to look into the matter arrived too late to realize the extent of the evil, however, as the authorities in charge of the island were informed that an investigation was imminent and rushed over forty cords of wood, consuming with this a great part of the debris.

Mrs. Fisk has also been instrumental in establishing one New York Circulating Library in her neighborhood, and desires to introduce in the Mothers' Meetings of the Public Schools talks on civic and municipal housekeeping.

The advisability of placing three fountains in the Bronx has been discussed by this Division. The members discovered that a resolution had been passed by the Board of Aldermen three years ago for the erection of a fountain at 169th Street and McKinley Square, but no appropriation was made therefor, and as the Division was raising funds for another more important fountain, it could not provide for this one also, but is instead endeavoring to have a horse trough placed at this spot. The city had ordered fifty horse troughs from the Mott Iron Works and the same have been ready for delivery for some time, but the city has not yet paid for them. The division is taking up this matter and urging that the horse troughs be paid for and that one of them be placed at 169th Street.

A second fountain, which has been out of commission for eight years and is situated on the side of a church at 146th Street and Third Avenue, attracted Mrs. Fisk's attention and she obtained a promise from the Department of Sewers that they would repair the plumbing if the owners of the property would give the necessary consent to the city. This Mrs. Fisk made various attempts to obtain but was unsuccessful, and for lack of consent the fountain still remains in a neglected and shabby condition.

Seventy dollars toward the third fountain was transferred from the Tremont Division of the League to the Woodstock Division which the latter was enabled to increase by euchers and gifts to the sum of $204. Permission was granted by the Commissioner of Highways to place the fountain at Third Avenue and 138th Street, an extremely congested neighborhood, and the Department of Sewers promised to do all the plumbing. Mr. Lamb presented us with plans which, however, were beyond our means, and those designed by the Mott Iron Works were rejected by the Municipal Art Commission. After much hard work, a design in bronze was obtained from the Gorham Company, which has been accepted by the Art Commission. The fountain will be three feet high, will contain four bubbling cups and one cup for dogs, and an order for the same has already been placed.

Spuyten Duyvil.—The Spuyten Duyvil Division, which has been in existence since January of last year only, has been successful in preventing the dumping of garbage in an estate near the center of the best residential district, and made strenuous but unsuccessful efforts as well to have the garbage already dumped removed. A leaking hydrant was removed and replaced by a new style hydrant, and other efforts were made to minimize the dangers to the community from the mosquito pest. Three complaints were directed to the Health Department against stray cows which are allowed to wander at large and are in a dirty condition. The campaign against them is still in progress.

Park Committee.—Our Park Committee communicated with Commissioner Bingham in regard to the lack of proper police protection on Moshulu Avenue, where street lamps were being broken and shrubbery and trees destroyed. The Commissioner replied that though the police force was too small to cope with all the problems laid upon it, he would give the matter careful attention with a view to taking such remedial steps as were possible.

Commissioner Berry also approved of the Committee's suggestion that the stagnant pool at the junction of Jerome and Moshulu Avenues be filled, and stated that he was already conferring with the landscape architect in reference to it.

Julia L. D. Longfellow,
Chairman.

Research Department
—OF—
The Woman's Municipal League

Report of Research Department of The Woman's Municipal League

Ever since the Research Department was started in New York City, the hope has been that some time the work of studying the conditions of immigrant girls, with a view to their full protection for at least the first year after arrival, has been in mind. A beginning was made possible last year through the generous contributions of those interested in the immigrant girls and through the co-operation of the Council of Jewish Women, who had been already working along the same line. It has been possible this first year to study the conditions surrounding about five thousand immigrant girls in New York and through the co-operation of representatives of the Inter-Municipal Research Committee an additional five hundred in Boston and nearly five hundred in Chicago. Under the direction of the Inter-Municipal Research Committee the Philadelphia Research and Protective Association has made a complete study of 793 immigrant women. This report is on file at this office if any member wishes to read it.

These studies have been made by having an agent at Ellis Island who copied the names and addresses and sent them to the director of the Immigrant Girls' Aid. These were for periods of three, six, twelve months, and over one year, so comparisons of influences for various lengths of time could be determined. These girls were then visited and facts of living conditions, surroundings, educational opportunities, work, wages, food, associations, recreations, etc., gathered. It was found that so many of the girls needed help in finding work, better lodging, learning English, or to escape from immoral influences, that friendly visiting was also done and help given as the study progressed. These girls were not dependent, or charity cases; they needed simply a friend, advice, or to be told, or shown how to help themselves. It was not help in the charitable sense, simply the hand of friendship over a rough place.

For example, a Lithuanian woman was going to Chicago, to her brother in South Chicago. This was all the English she knew and all the address she had. The train stopped at a West Side station and no one being responsible for her she alighted. She wandered about for hours, miles from South Chicago, always hoping to see her brother. Finally, at dusk she saw a little sign on a door and sat in the doorway and fell asleep. It happened to be the office of a woman physician and when she came home she took the girl in for the night, but could not understand her need. The next morning she was found energetically sweeping and dusting—that she knew. To all inquiries she said "South Chicago." Finally she was taken to one of the Settlements and all languages tried. When she heard Lithuanian she wept with joy. Our representative agent there is still trying to find a brother who is probably distracted over a lost sister, but in the meantime the woman is safe.

In another case a little Slav child was found, in a restaurant, doing work far beyond her strength, for a hard woman who let no one see her. The visitor had to call several times and wait almost an entire day to see her. The reason for her seclusion was clear—the child labor law was being violated. The child if left under

those conditions would have had no chance.

Sending girls out of the city to work under better conditions, directing them to night schools and securing for them better lodgings are but friendly acts, not charity. Then, too, there have been the more serious needs of young girls who have been led astray and who are eager to make a new start. These friendly helps have, of necessity, accompanied the study and have helped to make clear the outline of a broad plan of protection.

In addition to this a special study has been made of the importation and system of preying upon immigrant girls in both New York and Chicago, so that this Department has in hand the most reliable data upon the dangers, the system of exploitation and the necessity for protection. The results of this investigation are being compiled into an effective report for the protection of immigrant girls.

The study is still incomplete, and this year the Immigrant Girls' Aid, with the co-operation of the Prospect Heights Branch of The Woman's Municipal League and Adelphi College, is making a special study of immigrant women in Brooklyn, and also of the distribution of women workers from city to city immediately after arrival and when out of work. These studies will, we believe, complete the necessary ammunition for greater protection by the government for immigrant women.

There are some significant facts which stand out clearly from this work.

One is, that in spite of the ironclad syndicate, which preys upon immigrants, as well as other defenseless women, and which is interstate in its operations, many immigrant women have been found living honest lives and working hard. It is a great tribute to that "low standard of morality" we hear so much about, which is often due to the over-emphasis given to the failures.

Another is the endurance and patience with which they struggle along under the burden of low wages, bad lodging, exploitation by employers and others, and still think of America as the most beautiful and free of countries. Another is the few American hands extended to help them—and that so many of their own countrymen sacrifice and save to help them along.

This is the hopeful side—the side which needs to be more widely understood. But on the other hand many have gone down to defeat and despair when a sympathetic friendly visitor—a friend at the time of need—would have prevented the failure.

The Research Department is formulating a line of protection based upon these investigations, sufficiently wide to give a fair picture of conditions. Part of this is already in force as an experiment under Commissioner Watchorn's able direction, by which, as has already been announced in the papers, the government is making a direct study of the conditions of importation and how to meet them. But this can be only one of a series of movements which must be welded into a system of protection and prevention, rather than one of prosecution or deportation, before the need can be met. Protection in travel, at work, in their own neighborhoods and homes, education—these are inseparably a part of any system of protection. This is the object of the Department's investigations; this is the task of this year—to present such indisputable evidence that the government—national and State—will formulate and put into force a system of protection. Unity of action is as essential to the success of protection as it is to exploitation, and we believe there is enough faith in the good in womankind to give them a fair chance.

Respectfully submitted,

PENDLETON KENNEDY,
Secretary.

November 23, 1907.